

Harwich Water Department
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
Meeting held on Tuesday, December 17th, 2013 at 8:15 a.m.

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Vice Chairman Danette Gonsalves, Clerk Donald Bates, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Comptroller Sandra Cummings, Senior Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Selectman Larry Ballantine, Secretary Tracey Alves

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:18 a.m.

The Commissioner's signed the amended Minutes from the November 19th, 2013 meeting.

Chairman Thompson entertained a motion for the Minutes of the December 3rd, 2013 meeting.

Vice Chairman Gonsalves moved to approve the Minutes with just one change to be made.

Clerk Bates seconded. 3-0-0

Big utility companies such as National Grid and NSTAR have been requesting work to be done such as marking out water lines in various locations and properties but they have not been paying for services rendered. It has been suggested that a meeting be held with Lincoln Hooper, the Director of the Highway Department, to further discuss this matter because he is the only one who can bring change to this. The Charter says that his department is the only one that can charge for this revenue that is currently being lost.

The construction of the Well 10 project is coming along nicely and on schedule. The remainder of the project will go to central registration around December 28, 2013 with the bid opening by the third week in January of 2014.

The Verizon cell tower contract has been sent to Town Counsel so that they can draft up their own customized proposal similar to the contract that was drafted up for AT&T for the cell tower site that they are currently building.

The approved abatement in the amount of \$25.00 for 435 Long Pond Drive was signed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

A conversation regarding Blueberry Lane began discussing how the Fire Department had put a call in to the Water Department relaying the concerns of a citizen that feared the fire hydrant on Blueberry Lane was covered and could not be seen. This call was treated as an emergency call since it came directly from the Fire Department, however, the homeowner who lives where this hydrant is located was never contacted to trim the planting. Instead, Water Department personnel made it a priority to take care of it and the planting that covered the hydrant was cut down. The homeowner would like a replacement plant. Superintendent Wiegand recommended that one of the plantings located at the Water Department be transplanted and put in its place.

Superintendent Wiegand discussed how there were a couple of items mentioned at the Board of Selectmen's meeting held on December 21st, 2013 that should have been explained differently than they were. First being, the comment on bottled water should have been described as filtered water. Secondly, flushing always has to occur as it is a necessity but the duration of how long the flushing lasts can change. Approximately three million gallons were saved by flushing.

Selectman Ballantine requested that a short memo be written in regards to this so that everyone can be made aware of these facts.

The Union contract has still not yet been ratified. If the contract is not signed then the 2% salary increase will not be received. Comptroller Cummings added that it will still have to be budgeted for.

When a snow day occurs personnel are paid regular rate and emergency personnel are paid at an over-time rate. Also, a main concern is that the Water Department receives notification in the case of such an event regarding a closure due to snow.

All personnel need to have a new Conflict of Interest form signed and on file for the year 2014.

A conversation arose regarding the fact that if Town Hall closes early on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve days, does this apply to Water Department personnel as well? In hopes of fairness amongst Municipal employees a call will put in to Bob Lawton to further discuss this topic.

The crane came in and is being sent to Municipal Headquarters. The hydraulic lines still do need to be hooked up. The factory bumper is off and the new bumper is now equipped with outriggers.

The new truck is tied up for the next 10 days but very soon after the shifting around of a few vehicles the Superintendent will have a small Ford Ranger pick-up available for him to use out in the field.


The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7th, 2014.

Vice Chairman Gonsalves motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

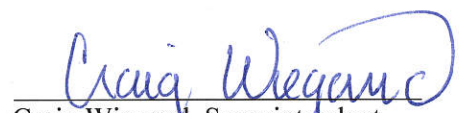
Clerk Bates seconded. 3-0-0

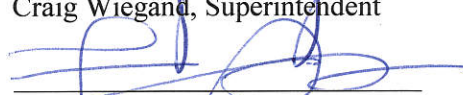
Respectfully Submitted,


Allin P. Thompson, Chairman


Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chairman


Donald T. Bates, Clerk


Craig Wiegand, Superintendent


Tracey Alves, Secretary