

Harwich Water Department
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
Meeting held on September 24, 2013 at 8:15 a.m.

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Vice Chairman Danette Gonsalves, Clerk Donald Bates, Selectman Larry Ballantine, Superintendent Craig Wiegand, Comptroller Sandra Cummings, Sr. Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Office Assistant Tracey Alves, Minute Taker

Chairman Allin Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Vice Chairman Gonsalves moved to approve the minutes from September 10th 2013. Chairman Thompson seconded. 3-0-0.

Superintendent Wiegand discussed the AT&T agreement. The agreement has been signed and is currently in the review process. It is next to be reviewed by the Cape Cod Commission and soon after construction will begin.

Superintendent Wiegand went on to state how he was approached by Verizon to discuss the proposal of another cell tower site. Verizon is interested in a parcel of land off of Spruce Road for the proposed site. This matter is to be negotiated.

Cape Net has still not demonstrated any efforts in communicating details in regards to the cost of fiber optics. The reasoning as to why there is such a lack of communication is unknown. Superintendent Wiegand will continue to try and reach out to Cape Net until the desired information is obtained.

Comptroller Cummings discussed billing consumption and how billing is now in one cycle. A billing consumption report was presented and indicated that revenue projections were met for FY14 fall billing.

Superintendent Wiegand discussed how many big consumers have gone to private irrigation. Because private irrigation is currently deregulated and the D.E.P. has been strategizing on how they can limit the amount of consumption used but as of now there are no rules in place. He stated that it hurts that water is being withdrawn from the aquifer and we have no control over it, eventually this will have an impact. The town may have to come up with a by-law or something to control the amount of water being used by private wells.

Comptroller Cummings discussed the FY13 year-end close and disclosed the fund balance carried over into FY14. The next capital project in FY20 is the Pleasant Lake rehab project. Also, capital improvements such as water mains will be the focus.

Superintendent Wiegand stated that valves will be a major focus as well. By inputting valves, if there ever happens to be break in the main, less of an area would have to be shut down.

The next Capital Outlay meeting will be held on October 30th 2013 at 5:30 p.m. Superintendent Wiegand mentioned a few items that will fall under this plan. One being that a skid steer will need to be leased as well as reinvestments into the service equipment.

Comptroller Cummings spoke of an item that came up that was not listed on the agenda. A letter was received from Bob Lawton, the Town Administrator requesting for an overtime fee to be waived. The fee was charged as a result of a service call that was placed on a weekend day to investigate a leak which turned out to be a faulty sprinkler head.

Clerk Bates moved to deny the request to waive the fee. Chairman Thompson entertained a motion to address the issue. Past practice was discussed and to keep the records straight Vice Chairman Gonsalves seconded the motion to deny the request. 3-0-0

Superintendent Wiegand spoke of how contract negotiations were approaching. Uniforms have been an issue in terms of dealing with a third party. An option for a clothing allowance has been discussed with the service crew. The service crew is interested in a small yearly stipend to be used for the sole purpose of uniform clothing only be issued yearly.

The issue with National Grid has still not been addressed in regards to mark-outs and what they are being charged for services rendered. Selectman Larry Ballantine thought that a solution had already been reached. Superintendent Wiegand proposed a \$75.00 fee for individual property mark-outs and a \$300.00 fee for road mark-outs. National Grid is rebuilding their entire system. They are really cutting up the roads of Harwich and there is no curb-to-curb replacement like Yarmouth. It is going to cost Harwich in the long run because National Grid is ruining the newly paved roads that taxpayers have invested in.

The Wastewater Plan was discussed briefly. Superintendent Wiegand stated that a big portion of the plan is setting up the Wastewater Itinerary in itself.

Vice Chairman Gonsalves revisited speaking of an account that was being monitored for consumption. The Depot Rd. Extension account had a meter monitor placed on it to monitor consumption on a monthly basis. Sr. Billing Administrator Marsh stated that in July and August there was a slight leak at the property and that the owner knew of the leak. It was an outside silcox leak. After they went over usage and there were no signs of a leak in the winter and the usage was contested in the summer, since there was no prior usage history and they have irrigation, the owners were advised to fix the leak immediately. This issue will be revisited once again at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Gonsalves mentioned that the Seaside Condo/Service Tight Plan should be addressed at the next meeting as well.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 22nd, 2013.

Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Allin P. Thompson, Chairman


Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chairman


Donald T. Bates, Clerk


Craig Wiegand, Superintendent


Tracey Alves, Minute Taker