



TOWN OF MEDWAY  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

**Commissioners**

Leo O'Rourke, Chair  
Robert Wilson, Member  
Cranston Rogers, Member

## Meeting Minutes

**APPROVED 08/22/16**

July 18, 2016

Middle School Presentation Room  
45 Holliston Street  
Medway MA 02053

Present: Robert Wilson, Leo O'Rourke, Chan Rogers, Andy Rodenhiser-Planning Board Liaison and Program Administrator Judi LaPan.

**A motion was made by Bob Wilson to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:10 PM. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

**Chan Rogers makes a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2016 meeting. Bob Wilson seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

Andy Rodenhiser was in attendance as our new Planning Board liaison. He will attend the Water & Sewer Commissioner meeting if he so chooses or if it is requested that he attend. Andy offers his help to the Commissioners with communication between the two boards. He endorses all of the hard work the Commissioners do. Andy Rodenhiser asks if the Water & Sewer Commissioners will be overseeing Stormwater Management costs and rate setting of fees? He notes that many new projects, ie: Salmon Health, Timbercrest, Millstone and the Bottlecap Lots will all be needing water.

### **Abatements:**

**Abatement Request – 42 Summer Street – Dunkin Donuts –** There was a significant leak last year in the "slop" sink that was never brought before the Commissioners. The owner felt that she was responsible for that as her employees should have told her about it. Some time starting around February the usage started rising and the owner could not find anything leaking. When she received the high May bill she called and asked if the Water Superintendant could stop in and see if he could determine what was causing the constant water use. It turns out that there was a significant leak after the meter, under the slab of the restaurant resulting in water flowing into the ground. Per the Assistant Water & Sewer Superintendant Jeff Roach the water did not go into the sewer system. I have attached the consumption history. I think we need to look at the consumption history for the next few bill cycles to figure out what portion of the use was due to the leak and what is normal consumption for this account. **The Commissioners voted to table this until the next meeting so they can see the consumption history and have more information before they make a decision, now that the leak is fixed. This information will be provided at the August 22, 2018 meeting.**

**Abatement Request – 16 Brigham Street – Cynthia Timpany-** This is a water and sewer account. They homeowner has an irrigation system. They state that they do not use their irrigation but need to turn the system on in order to connect their hose to hand water. This has been confirmed by the Water Superintendant Barry Smith. The owner is requesting an abatement due to the high bill. She is looking for any type of relief the Commissioners feel appropriate and fair. In preparation of the meeting a consumption history was prepared to offer an indication of the usage during the 4 days the homeowner thought the system was leaking. It appears that there was 4,059 cf of water used in this timeframe that did not go into the sewer system. The breakdown for the charges for the 4 days the system was leaking is broken down on the second chart in your packet. The leak has been fixed. Last week Cynthia came in with another invoice as a different zone started to leak. She is also requesting an abatement for the second leak.

**Bob Wilson made a motion to abate sewer charges in the amount of \$224.99(see chart in abatement packet for breakdown). He also made a motion that the second request be denied as he felt the homeowner should have been more aware of any leaks after the first leak occurred. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0. The Commissioners unanimously voted to send a violation notice if they are using their irrigation system and not hand watering.**

**Abatement Request – 9 North Street – Steve Brody -** This is a three family home. The owner was notified by a tenant that he could hear water running all the time. Upon investigation a vacant unit had a toilet that was running. Steve shut the valve off until he could fix the toilet. He has since replaced the flapper. He is seeking any type of relief that the Commissioners feel appropriate and fair. The breakdowns for the water and sewer charges are on the chart attached to your packet.

**Loe O'Rourke made a motion to abate sewer charges in the amount of \$111.00(see chart in abatement packet for breakdown). Bob Wilson seconded. unanimous vote, 3-0.**

**Abatement Request – 115 Holliston Street- Medway Country Manor Nursing Home**

The owners of the Nursing Home have been notified via a leak detection postcard that there were concerns about water loss every three months for the past year. We also called and spoke to their head of maintenance. We discussed the fact that they were using water 24/7 and did not know if they had a leak or simply used water all night for patient care. The maintenance man stated they had toilets, faucets and shower heads leaking that he would need to repair. I have attached the consumption history which shows they are consistently very high users, as would be expected from such a facility. I think we need to look at the consumptions for the next few bill cycles to figure out what portion of the use was due to the leak and what is normal consumption for this account.

**The Commissioners voted to table this until the next meeting so they can see the consumption history now that the leak is fixed. This information will be provided at the August 22, 2018 meeting. The Commissions state that if they have been informed on multiple occasions that they should have fixed it immediately and then they would not have the need to be requesting an abatement.**

**Abatement Request – 320 Village Street- Galante's Restaurant**

The owner, Lou Galante was in to the office to request an abatement In late April he states he had to run the water for a long period of time trying to clear the sediment in the water due to flushing. Upon investigation, his consumption history indicated that he did use approximately 230 cf of water, which is 150 cf more than usual most days on April 19th. The consumption chart also shows that their consumption was much higher throughout the 3 month bill cycle; the high use was not due to just one day. The charts in the package will show this pattern.

**The Commissioners voted to table this until the next meeting so they can see the consumption history and have more information before they make a decision**

## **Director's Report**

Tom Holder was not in attendance, there was no Director's Report.

## **Member prerogative:**

There was a discussion about the roles of the Commissioners and it was decided it was time to change roles within the Commission. **Bob Wilson made a motion to nominate Leo O'Rourke as the new Committee Chairman. Chan Rogers seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 22, 2016 at 5PM in the Middle School Presentation Room.

***Robert Wilson made a motion to adjourn at 6:00 PM. Leo O'Rourke seconded. Unanimous vote, 3-0.***