



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 02/21/17

December 12, 2016

DPS Conference Room
45B Holliston Street
Medway MA 02053

Present: Bob Wilson, Leo O'Rourke, Ted Kenney, David D'Amico and Program Administrator Judi LaPan. Donna Robie of 16 Temple Street, Medway was also in attendance.

A motion was made by Leo O'Rourke to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:00 PM. Bob Wilson seconded, unanimous vote, 2-0.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting. Bob Wilson seconded, unanimous vote, 2-0.

Abatements:

Abatement Request Appeal – 16 Temple Street

The initial Abatement Request was denied at the 10/24/16 Commissioners meeting.

Minutes from the Initial 10/24/16 hearing are as follows:

This is the initial abatement request: "The applicant had extremely high usage of 6,779 cf of usage. The applicant has an in ground pool and an irrigation system. The applicant feels the usage is inaccurate and suspicious. She states that there is no way they have consumed the water and feels her neighbor must be stealing water. Sarah and I each spent well over an hour and a half researching the hourly readings on this account at the applicant's request. The towns recording device, also known as the meter, appears to be working accurately. The meter starts and stops on a regular basis. The research indicates water is being used when the applicants were not home, based on receipts provided to the town. I explained to Mrs. Robie that we have no way of knowing how the water is being consumed, regardless of whether they are home or not. I recommended the Robie's check their irrigation lines and heads and the water lines to the pool for leaks. I have also informed the applicant that it is the Towns position that the water is being consumed. Although we tried our best to help figure out when the water was being used it is not the Towns responsibility to figure out how it was used, ultimately it is the homeowners responsibility. I explained that they have the right to have the meter tested if they do not feel it is accurate and I explained the policy if they choose to test the meter. They do not want to pay to test the meter. Please see the packet for further documentation.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to deny the abatement as the water was used. Bob Wilson seconded the motion. *Unanimous vote, 3-0.* "

Donna Robie, the owner came in to appeal the denial voted on 10/24/16. She presented information indicating that their irrigation system must be faulty or leaking. The Commissioners discussed the fact that the irrigation is considered non-essential use and is not allowed per the DEP mandated Water Ban. Mrs. Robie stated that they use the irrigation system until the water ban goes into effect and also to fill their pool. She requested the Commissioners revisit the denial of the abatement once she can prove the irrigation system has been repaired. Leo O'Rourke made a motion to discuss a sewer only abatement once the system is repaired and proper documentation is provided to the Commissioners. Bob Wilson seconded the motion. **Unanimous vote, 2-0.**

Directors Report:

Mr. D'Amico informed the Commissioners that he had been named as the Interim DPS Director.

Open Discussion:

Leo O'Rourke asks if there is any update on the status of Millis selling water to Exelon? Mr. D'Amico states that they are still in the process of making the decision of whether or not it is in the Towns best interest to do this. If the decision is made that Millis will indeed sell the water to Exelon, at that time an inter-municipal agreement would be addressed as the water will be piped through Medway.

Leo O'Rourke asks questions regarding the town of Medway's total water capacity. He is concerned that Medway will be over capacity with the Timbercrest, Salmon Health and Exelon projects all coming online the near future. Mr. D'Amico states that we will be at capacity within the next 3-5 years.

Bob Wilson asks where we stand with the drought? Mr. D'Amico states that drought conditions remain relatively unchanged. We have been and continue to be under a Drought Warning.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2017 at 5PM. The meeting will be held in the Middle School Presentation Room

Leo O'Rourke made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 PM. Robert Wilson seconded. Unanimous vote, 2-0.

Respectfully submitted

Judi LaPan

