



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

Leo O'Rourke, Chair

Francis E. (Ted) Kenney Jr.,
Member

Barry Zide, Member

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 12/18/17

November 20, 2017
DPS Conference Room
45B Holliston Street
Medway MA 02053

In attendance: DPS Director Dave D'Amico, DPS Deputy Director Barry Smith, Commissioner Ted Kenney, Commissioner Leo O'Rourke and Recording Secretary Judi LaPan.

**Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:02 PM.
Ted Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.**

**Ted Kenney makes a motion to approve the minutes with modifications from the 10/23/17 meeting.
Leo O'Rourke seconded the motion. Unanimous.**

DPS Director Dave D'Amico informed the Commissioners that the Haley & Ward Wells and Treatment Evaluation report has been completed. The purpose of the study was to determine where the Town is with regard to our water supply and what we need to do going forward to ensure water quantity and quality is adequate to meet the future needs of the community. The study indicates that we have a few issues with quantity and quality. We have enough permitted capacity but due to the production of the wells we cannot produce enough at each location. We would need a new hole and a new pump in order to meet the demand. The issue of quality is the iron at Oakland. We could blend or re-pipe and combine the wells and we would have a better quality of water, however we would have problems with quantity if we need to take out two wells for maintenance or repairs. The decision that would need to be discussed is would individual treatment plants versus a centralized plant be more beneficial? What do these needs mean to the water and sewer rates? We would have to secure a loan to fund the work. See the handout called Sample Impact on Water Rates for more in-depth information. Director D'Amico also discussed the IWRPM Meeting he recently attended. The Town of Franklin has 1.2 million gallons per day of spare capacity. We have the potential to purchase additional capacity.

Abatement Requests:

Abatement request – 1 Lewis Drive – This is a sewer only account. They obtain their water from Millis. The Reifs purchased the property in May 2016. They did not know how the water meter was configured and that it was measuring their outdoor water usage. They were establishing their lawn and watered heavily in August/October resulting in usage of 17,032 cf of water. They think the irrigation system is leaking and will have the system pressure tested and repaired before using it this year. They are not disputing the water charges. This water was not sent to sewage. They are requesting a sewer abatement for the water that did not enter the sewer system. The two cycles we have consumption history for average 2,473 cubic feet. It appears the amount of water that did not enter the sewer system is 14,559 cf. The value for this would be \$1,091.09. The Commissioners voted to table this abatement request until we had a year's history to see the same like cycles. We now have the necessary history and it indicates that the Reifs average quarterly consumption is 1,805cf. The history indicates that 15,227 cf of water did not enter the sewer system. $2000 \times \$5.44 = \108.80 , $1500 \times 614 = \$92.10$, $11,727\text{cf} \times \$8.05 = \1944.02 = a total of \$1,144.92 in sewer only charges that could be abated.

Ted Kenney makes a motion to abate 50% of the value of the loss or \$572.46. Leo O'Rourke seconded, Unanimous.

Abatement Request -29 Lovering Street- Jack Lennon – This is a water & sewer account. The homeowner had a silent leak in a toilet located in the bathroom in the downstairs bathroom. The homeowner is requesting an abatement due to the financial hardship this high bill creates and the fact that he did not realize he had a leak until he received the high bill. Once he received the May bill with such high consumption he called and we discussed that something was leaking. He fixed the flapper, or so he thought. When he received the August bill and realized the toilet was still leaking he contacted a plumber to make the repair. The leak appears over three bill cycles. The February 2017 bill he was billed for 1,686cf. The leak appears to represents a small amount of 533cf and it wasn't apparent there was a problem at this point.

If an abatement were granted the value of the February bill would be approximately \$694.40. The breakdown is as follows: \$ 383.54 for water and \$310.86 for sewer. Half of the value would equal \$ 347.20 or \$191.77 for water and \$155.43 for sewer

Ted Kenney makes a motion to abate 50% of the value of the loss as stated above. Leo O'Rourke seconded, Unanimous.

The May 2017 bill cycle he was billed for 2,934cf. The leak represents 1,781cf. If an abatement were granted the value for this May bill would be approximately \$217.29. The breakdown is as follows: \$120.40 for water and \$96.89 for sewer. Half of the value would equal \$108.65 or \$60.20 for water and \$48.45 for sewer.

Ted Kenney makes a motion to abate 50% of the value of the loss as stated above. Leo O'Rourke seconded, Unanimous.

Abatement Requests Continued:

29 Lovering Street Continued- The August bill he was billed for 3,239cf. The leak represents 2,086cf. Prior to the leak the homeowners was using an average of 1,153 cf per quarter. This leak represents approximately 4,400 cf of lost water over 3 bill cycles. If an abatement were granted the value for this August bill would be approximately \$274.15. The breakdown is as follows: \$150.82 for water and \$123.33 for sewer. Half of the value would equal \$137.07 or \$75.41 for water and \$61.66 for sewer.

Ted Kenney makes a motion to abate 50% of the value of the loss as stated above. Leo O'Rourke seconded, Unanimous.

Green Acres Hydroseeding, located at 27 Jayar Road is not requesting an abatement but at a prior meeting requested the Commission reclassify the water charges from irrigation to commercial rates. This is a commercial account that uses a seasonal meter from April – November annually to fill the tank of his hydro seeding truck. Mr. Solari does not feel that he should be charged the irrigation rate as he is not irrigating and is running a commercial business. Commissioner O'Rourke says that he feels that they are making a product with water and should be charged the Commercial rate. Commissioner Kenney asks what our regulations state regarding this? He thinks that this could be the type of account where the rates are neither commercial nor irrigation. This type of use is considered a bulk distribution or bulk fill as they fill a tank to make their product. Barry Smith says that we are in the business of selling water but also conserving water. This usage is an elected use for a non-essential application. The Commissioners had requested that Judi LaPan research what surrounding communities charge for the same application. They also requested that the numbers be run through the tier structures at the commercial rate vs the irrigation rate. Leo O'Rourke feels that the Commissioners have more important issues to address and that we should charge him the commercial rate. Ted Kenney is concerned that we are setting a precedent and that we need more information about what other communities are doing before we make a decision. This will be tabled until the December meeting and Judi will try to obtain more information.

Directors Report:

Mr. Smith informed the Commissioners that that we have completed hydrant flushing in zones 4 & 5 and it went very well. He informed the Commissioners that leak detection started and in the past five days they have found 7 leaks. The Water Division exposed 6 miles of curb valves on all PVC lines to allow the leak detection company to listen for leaks. Leo O'Rourke asks if any significant leaks were found. Barry Smith states nothing significant but every leak found and fixed helps with our unaccounted water numbers. Barry Smith also informed the Commissions that three new sample stations for bacteria testing were installed. The locations are near the boat ramp on Village Street, at the High School and at the McGovern School. Each site will be sampled at least once a month. He also discussed the fact that the new water truck has been delivered and is in service. The new truck replaced a 2004 truck which will be kept as a spare but will no longer be used for snow plow operations.

Open Discussion: None

The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2017 at 5PM. The meeting will be held in the DPS Conference Room, 45B Holliston Street, Door 9, Medway, MA.

Ted Kenney made a motion to adjourn at 6:57PM. Leo O'Rourke seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi LaPan