



TOWN OF MEDWAY  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

**Commissioners**

Cranston Rogers, Chair  
Robert Wilson, Member  
Peter Gluckler, Member

## Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2011 – 6:30pm  
DPS – Tom Holder's Office  
155 Village Street, Medway MA

Present: Chan Rogers, Robert Wilson, Peter Gluckler, DPS Director Thomas Holder, and Executive Assistant Sarah Pawluczzonek.

**The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by a motion from Robert Wilson.**

**Peter Gluckler seconded.**

**Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

### Abatement – 3 Virginia Rd

Tom Holder explained that this was an abatement presented at our previous meeting, which the Board felt they needed more information on before they could render a decision. He told the Board that Sarah Pawluczzonek had contacted their plumber directly to ask what the repair specifically was, and whether it could have been caused by our changing of the meter. The answer was that it was a coupling after the meter which was replaced and he could not rule out that the meter change had something to do with it. With that information we decided to take the average this residents last 3 similar bills to come up with the amount they would normally pay for water which came to just over \$100.

Chan Rogers asked what Tom Holder's recommendation was.

Tom Holder stated that his recommendation was to approve the abatement based on the fact that this could have been a leak caused by the Town's contractor during the meter change and to lower the water charges down to \$111, their average consumption.

Chan Rogers asked the Board what they recommended.

**Peter Gluckler made a motion to reduce the amount to be billed for water to \$111.**

**Robert Wilson seconded.**

**Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

### Abatement – 3 Tulip Way

Sarah Pawluczzonek explained that the abatement being sought here was one for a high bill which was being contested on the basis that they felt they could not possibly have used the water. The customer has a long history of very high water consumption over the summer months similar to this bill for the same time frame. An inside/outside discrepancy was also ruled out due to the fact that the outside encoder matched the meter inside when both were removed for the new meter installation. Customer refused the offer from the Department to have the old meter

tested with the understanding that if not found to be over-registering; the cost of the test would be borne by the homeowner. In the end there is no evidence to support a billing or mechanical error.

Robert Wilson looked at the consumption pattern and remarked that they did trend consistently high on every summer billing.

Chan Rogers asked what the homeowner had to say in their own defense.

Sarah Pawluczonek answered that they simply claimed that they could not have used that much water. They did not irrigate over the summer, and their neighbor's bills were much lower.

**Robert Wilson made a motion that the abatement be denied.**

**Peter Gluckler seconded.**

**Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

### Approve Past Meeting Minutes

Tom Holder requested that the Board consider approving the meeting minutes for all the meetings going back to the meeting held on 6/06/11. This would include the meetings on 6/06/11, 6/13/11, 8/29/11, 9/19/11, 10/17/11, and 11/28/11.

**Robert Wilson made a motion to approve all the minutes from the previous meetings dating back to 6/06/11.**

**Peter Gluckler seconded.**

**Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

### Director's Report

Tom Holder told the group that we were accepted for a State Revolving Fund Loan for \$500,000 at 2%, to fund the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWRMP). It was a very good loan as far as the impact to our debt service is concerned. He also told the group that he had been before the Conservation Commission and given a DEP file number for the Main Street Water Main Construction Project, so this is a green light to go forward. The design is expected to be 100% complete by the end of December 2011. The construction contract will be bid and awarded sometime over the winter months.

Robert Wilson asked if Tom Holder had any idea why we were denied the MassWorks Grant.

Tom Holder answered that he had called Nayenday Thurman, his contact, and had not yet heard back.

Chan Rogers remarked that up until now we had been very fortunate with our grant awards.

Tom Holder explained that the application submitted for the grant was very well put together and right in line with the spirit of the grant. We are not really sure why we were denied.

Tom Holder also mentioned that at some point he would still like to have representatives from the Charles River Pollution Control District sit with the group to discuss their upcoming rehabilitation project.

Chan Rogers wanted to bring up the matter of the approved major expenditure for the Thayer House Project and the lack of funding for a new DPS facility, forcing us to keep our \$130,000 vehicle outside.

Tom Holder said that he planned to re-energize this discussion with the Board of Selectmen with the acquirement of two new vehicles. He explained that the DPS had the opportunity to rent a couple of storage bays including office space for the Water & Sewer Department's vehicle and staff. This would cost about \$3,000 to \$3,500 a month.

Robert Wilson asked how much the Thayer House renovation project is going to cost the Town.

Tom Holder answered that it was just about three million dollars. But it was being funded from a four million dollar Community Preservation Fund. He also mentioned that the DPS Facility will again be on our capital budget request.

Robert Wilson asked how the AMR Project was going.

Tom Holder said that one of the remaining issues was that we were having some trouble getting contact from the MIU's in a certain part of Town. So we are working with our contractor to relocate some MIU's and resolve this issue. Also, there are some issues with meters on wells getting clogged with sediment, which we are considering fixing by replacing with a special type of meter made for well systems.

Chan Rogers asked Tom Holder to talk about the force main issue on Rustic Road.

Tom Holder explained that the development on Rustic Road, behind Restaurant 45, has a force main which is in the resident's deeds to maintain. It is a 2" plastic line sitting on ledge, which is inevitably going to have problems. These residents are supposed to have a homeowners association set up to deal with any potential issues with their sewer system. There is a meeting with the homeowners scheduled for January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to discuss street acceptance and sewer system issues.

Chan Rogers stated that the Town Planning Administrator went over all the language written into these deeds including the forming of a homeowner's association. He clarified that Tom Holder's position is that the Town does not want to accept the sewer system, only the street and water system.

Robert Wilson asked if Rustic Road had experienced some sewer issues last year.

Tom Holder said that yes, there was a basement with sewer in it at 3 Rustic Road, and no evidence of a sewer main issue coming from the Town's main system. The owner had also been drilling holes in his foundation without a permit, which is another issue altogether.

#### Other Business:

Next meeting will be held on Monday, January 23 at 6:30pm in Tom's Office.

All agreed.

**At 7:38pm Robert Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.**

**Peter Gluckler seconded.**

**Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sarah Pawluczonek  
Executive Assistant  
Department of Public Services**