



TOWN OF MEDWAY  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

**Commissioners**

Leo O'Rourke, Chair

Francis E. (Ted) Kenney Jr.,  
Member

Barry Zide, Member

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2018

**APPROVED 03/05/18**

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, Commissioner Barry Zide, Greg Eldridge from Haley and Ward, and Recording Secretary Judi LaPan.

Chairman O'Rourke called the Water & Sewer Commissioners meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Commissioner Kenney makes a motion to approve the minutes with modifications from the 12/18/17 meeting. Commissioner O'Rourke seconded the motion. Unanimous.

**Abatement Requests:**

**Abatement Request – Michelle Dwyer – 19 Causeway Street**

This is a water only account. The owner is requesting an abatement for high consumption. While researching the August bill run I noticed high consumption and left a voice message at the home indicating I felt they had a leak. Mrs. Dwyer called the office and she was given suggestions to look at toilets, faucets and outside hoses as something was pulling water through the meter. They could not find an interior leak but they did replace the hardware in toilets and replaced a few older faucets in case they were causing the problem. It was not relayed that they were using an irrigation system. They then received the November bill which was also extremely high. Mrs. Dwyer then applied for an abatement. While researching the account and emailing with Mrs. Dwyer I was able to look at the hourly readings determine that the constant usage had stopped. (Please see the email chain which is in with the Abatement Request) I asked if they had been watering or filling a pool and Mrs. Dwyer explained they had replanted all new grass in their yard. At that point I became aware that they had been using their irrigation system for the new lawn. The irrigation system was closed for the season and the constant usage stopped at that time. I do not know if they have a leak in the system or if they simply used a lot of water.

**Table request until next meeting for further discussion.**

Greg Eldridge from Haley & Ward is in attendance to update the Commissioners on where we stand since the Water Supply Strategic Plan presentation at the Selectmen's meeting. The report lays out what site is most advantageous for the money, and the strategic plan as to how we can maximize the supply (Populatic and Oakland page 3). If VOC's are no longer present we can go to upper Populatic for a new well, pending test drilling. The second option is Oakland Street Well, however there is higher iron output from the Oakland Well site. The third option is the Village Street Well, however there is higher manganese output from this site.

Commissioner Zide suggests that perhaps we could offer filters, with POE's funding. He stated it's something to look into.

Mr. Eldridge discussed that it is difficult to decide between capacity versus filtration. We need water, and we are putting together a comprehensive plan to address this. Its water supply/capacity, then treatment – not either, or, but both. Mr. Eldridge says we can develop new water supplies, but research available shows that it is unlikely that we will find a suitable new site with available land and a suitable aquafer. Mr. Eldridge discussed blending, however the costs of a centralized distribution “blending facility” have not yet been explored. Commissioner Zide asks to have these costs explored and broken down. He feels that the residents will want these costs proven. Mr. Smith recommends testing Chicken Brook. Commissioner. Zide has started to put together a slide deck where we currently are in the process and where we need to get to. What are the stakes to our residents? Mr. Eldridge questioned our timeline. The Commissioners feel we need to start meeting bi-monthly effective immediately.

Mr. Eldridge's has been asked to provide the following:

- Blending facility costs
- Testing at Populatic
- A detailed breakdown of the \$13 million in costs.

The Commissioners discussed the fact that Bellingham used a debt exclusion due to a consent order with DEP due to water quality.

#### **Directors Report:**

Mr. Smith provided the Commissioner with the current Water and Sewer fees. He would like the fees to be reviewed and be discussed at next month's meeting. Mr. Smith would like the Commissioners to plan to vote on the new fees in March, to be effective April 1, 2018. The goal is to have new fees in effect for the start of the permitting season which begins on April1, 2018.

**Directors Report Continued:**

Mr. B. Smith update the Commissioners that we are working on auditing and swapping all of the larger meters. This will capture the low flow that the current meters often do not register. This will also help to bring our unaccounted water numbers down. We repaired a few main breaks over the last few weeks. The Brentwood water main is currently in the design phase.

**Open Discussion:**

Commissioner O'Rourke asks why commissions do not hear when there are water complaints.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2018 at 5PM. The meeting will be held in the DPS Conference Room, 45B Holliston Street, Door 9, Medway, MA. Other meetings scheduled are as follows:

- February 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 5:00PM
- March 5<sup>th</sup> 2018 5PM
- March 19<sup>th</sup> 2018 5PM.

**Commissioner Zide made a motion to adjourn at 6:40PM. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi LaPan