



TOWN OF MEDWAY COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Public Works

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Director

David D'Amico

Deputy Director

Peter Pelletier

APPROVED 7/13/21

March 9, 2021

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, no in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted at this meeting. Board members will be participating remotely. For public hearings, access via Zoom is provided for the required opportunity for public participation.

In attendance via Zoom: Michael Callahan, Advisory Member
Leo O'Rourke, Advisory Member
Steven Burke, Advisory Member

Also in attendance via Zoom: David D'Amico, DPW Director, Peter Pelleteri, DPW Deputy Director, Barry Smith, Water & Sewer Superintendent, and Jill Karakeian, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary

Member Callahan called the Water & Sewer Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.

Member O'Rourke made a motion approve the minutes from the 01/12/21 meeting. Member Burke seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken due to the nature of the remote Zoom meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Abatement Requests

6 Applegate Road

Homeowner looking to get an abatement on the sewer charge due to water used to fill ice rink. Average usage for this time period is 2,695cf. 4,991cf of usage, minus average = 2,296cf. Breakdown of charges is as follows 500cf - \$38.19, 1,500cf x \$7.64 = \$114.60 (tier 1), 296cf x \$8.73 = \$25.84 (tier 2) - total \$178.63. Total possible abatement for sewer charge \$178.63.

Member O'Rourke motions to approve abatement of \$178.63, Member Burke seconds. The motion carries unanimously. A roll call vote was taken due to the nature of the remove Zoom meeting.

Water Treatment Plant Discussion

Deputy Director Pelletier explains we currently have a scope of work from the selected designer, Wright-Pierce, with a fee of \$913,700.00 associated with that and a modified contract that has been sent

to Town Counsel to review. We are waiting on a few items from the OPM, in terms on how we want to end the contract with regards to the construction oversight, which looks like will be an addendum for that portion.

I&I Update:

Superintendent Smith explains that we've found a few more issues. We are struggling getting quotes from Contractor's. We did get one quote and will get him to repair a few areas. We did fix a few items on our own.

Chair Callahan anxious to see what we get over the next few weeks with the snow melting and hopefully a healthy amount of rain, which should help us and produce more results.

Superintendent Smith says it's been a pretty good month with the camera and making good progress. Also wanted to let the Board know that our average was down, and feels we will continue to go down.

Directors Report

Director D'Amico talks about it being rate study time, Town Accountant Carol Pratt is building the attributes of the model from what we have for debt, operating budgets. I'm going to use 2019 sales figures as opposed to 2020 due to the high sales mostly because everyone was home from COVID. It's a more conservative way to set rates. In looking at the rates, we are currently going to carry the Treatment Facility at \$13M, it's a conceptual figure at this point, and we are looking to have it online in October of 2023. There is also a tank rehab that we have been talking about in 2024-2025, Lovering Street Tank. Next year we will clean it, inspect it, take a good look at it and put a scope of work together for rehab. Rehabs you essentially do every 20 years of the tanks life. The last one was done in 1994. We are also looking at potentially raising the height of the tank to make it more hydraulically even with the Highland Street tank. Lovering Street Tank caps us on how high we can go, if we add another 8-10 feet it would make the 2 tanks comparable as far as the total that we could hold in the system. It would help with the pressure some and fire flows – it would be advantageous to do some of that, especially with the town growing.

Director D'Amico asked the Board's opinion with regards to the Charles River Tennis Club located at 11 Massasoit Street. There are 4 clay tennis courts, 2 properties, 1 residential property with 2 courts and one lot with 2 courts and a bathroom. The club rents the 2 courts from the residential property and also have the 2 on their own property. Because they are clay, they have to be watered down every day during the summer, in the evening to set up the clay surfaces. We charge them an irrigation rate to do that. Annually, their spending \$3,500.00 +/- on water, and there is no sewer at all, they have septic. They use approximately 8,500cf +/- of water a year. During the winter time they are typically shut-off. They are asking to be switched to a commercial rate, commercial is cheaper. If we switch them from an irrigation rate to a commercial rate, we will be saving them about \$700.00 annually. They are a non-profit group and I'm leaning towards allowing this change. You can certainly make the argument that they are taking a product and throwing it on the ground and they do it during the water band. Watering the courts are an essential business function, so we allow water use in those circumstances.

Chair Callahan asked if there was any other type of business that could be compared to this situation. Just wants to be consistent across the board.

Director D'Amico explains that the only businesses that he would think of was businesses with greenhouses and we just charge them the irrigation rate. We did recommend to the Charles River Tennis Club to look into a private well and they will look at that in the coming years.

Member O'Rourke doesn't have a problem charging them a commercial rate. It's such a unique use.

Chair Callahan and Member Burke agree with changing them to a commercial rate.

Chair Callahan expresses concerns why it's been such a hot topic and people seem to have sticker shock with the most recent bills again. It is winter, everyone is home and not going out.

Superintendent Smith stated social media drove that and it lasted 2 days then it went quiet.

Review of Water/Sewer Fees

Superintendent Smith reviews the proposed changes to the Water & Sewer service fees. Explains that this is reviewed every few years. We've re-worded a few items to make it all flow a little easier.

Member O'Rourke questioned the fees on the meters and asked why the difference in cost between the 5/8" and 1".

Superintendent Smith explains that the 1" meter costs \$215.25 and the 5/8" meter costs \$131.00 and the fittings for the 1" are more expensive as well.

Chair Callahan questions the violation section and asked how it is different from before.

Director D'Amico explains that it was a Warning, then First Offense, Second Offense and Third Offense, now First Offense is a warning and so on.

Chair Callahan questioned the second meter and what was done before.

Superintendent Smith explains that it was \$130.00 plus the meter cost of \$270.00. We increased it just a small amount and combined the cost to make it less confusing.

Member O'Rourke questioned the deposit for the hydrant meter and asked if it was a little high.

Superintendent Smith explains that's the cost of the back flow and meter. We aren't making any money – it's just to cover our cost if they freeze or break. When they turn in the meter and pay their water usage then we return the deposit.

Member Burke makes a motion to recommend the Water Sewer Services fees as presented by Superintendent Smith, Member O'Rourke seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously. A roll call vote was taken due to the nature of the remove Zoom meeting.

Review or Water/Sewer Regulations

Superintendent Smith explains he is still working on the regulations and would like to schedule a meeting next month for review and approval. I should have the proposed regulations in the next couple weeks.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2021 @ 6:00 pm.

Member Burke made a motion to adjourn at 6:37pm. Member O'Rourke seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously. A roll call vote was taken due to the nature of the remote Zoom meeting.