



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

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

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 12/12/16

October 24, 2016

DPS Conference Room
45B Holliston Street
Medway MA 02053

Present: Bob Wilson, Leo O'Rourke, Chan Rogers, Ted Kenney, Tom Holder and Program Administrator Judi LaPan.

A motion was made by Chan Rogers to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:00 PM. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Chan Rogers makes a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2016 meeting. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Abatements:

Abatement Request – 15 Summer Hill Road- Jason Ruebeck-

This is a well account with town sewer. The owner states he has a private well and the water meter is configured to measure his outdoor water usage. He hand watered heavily in May/June resulting in a sewage bill that tripled. The applicant met with the town to discuss the metering so it can be adjust to not measure outdoor water usage. He has not yet completed this work due to cost associated to do this. The applicant k consumed 1,277 cf more this past August bill cycle than he has the past 3 August cycles. The applicant is requesting a sewer only abatement as the water was used but did not enter the sewer system. This abatement request equates to \$69.49 in sewer charges. Please see the packet for further documentation.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the \$64.49 sewer abatement request as the water did not enter the sewer system, with the condition that the applicant replumb to prevent this problem from

occurring. Leo states that no future sewer abatements will be granted if the applicant chooses not to replumb. Chan Rogers seconded the motion. *Unanimous vote, 3-0.*

Abatements continued:

Abatement Request – 6 Oakland Street – Pamela Tucker

This is an abatement request for a full pool fill. The invoice provided shows the pool is an oval 15'X30' that holds 10,600 gallons. This equates to 1,417 cf of water. The applicant is requesting a sewer only abatement as the water was used but did not enter the sewer system. This abatement request equates to \$77.08 in sewer charges. Please see the packet for further documentation.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the \$77.08 sewer abatement request as the water did not enter the sewer system. Robert Wilson seconded the motion. *Unanimous vote, 3-0.*

Abatement Request –22 Broad Acres Farm Road- Ronald Brodeur.

This is a well account with town sewer. These are new owners who did not know how the water meter was configured and that it was capturing/measuring his outdoor water usage. They were establishing their lawn and watered heavily in May/June resulting usage of 6,439 cf of water. This water did not enter the sewer system... The applicant is requesting a sewer abatement for the water that did not enter the sewer system. The problem with this account is that due to the fact that these are new owners we do not have a history to use to determine an average use for the same like bill cycle for domestic use within the home. This will be need to be tabled until we have more history. Please see the packet for further documentation.

Robert Wilson makes a motion to table this for 3-6 months for future consideration once more history can be determined. Chan Rogers seconded the motion. *Unanimous vote, 3-0.*

Abatement Request –11 Barber Street – Olga Abramova

This is a water and sewer account. There was a leak in a toilet in the basement. The homeowners are requesting an abatement due to the financial hardship this high bill creates and the fact that they were unaware they had a leak until the applicant went into the basement and heard the toilet running. She shut the valve off and has provided documentation that the toilet has been replaced. They were billed for 4312 cf of water/sewer used. The average usage for this property is 1,886cf. If we were to abate the difference between the two it would be for 2426 cf. In water charges that would be \$169.71 and in sewer charges that would be \$134.96. Total abatement = \$304.67. If an abatement were granted and the Commissioners were to vote as they have in the past to reduce the difference of the water and sewer charges on their average bill and the last bill reflecting the leak owed by 50% the abatement would be for \$152.34. Please see the packet for further documentation.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the \$152.34 abatement request. Robert Wilson seconded the motion. *Unanimous vote, 3-0.*

Abatements continued:

Abatement Request- 16 Temple Street – Donna Robie

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. Robert Wilson seconded the motion. *Unanimous vote, 3-0.*

Director's Report

Tom Holder updated the Commissioners on Capital Funds and Indirect Costs. Tom provided an updated spreadsheet per Leo O'Rourke's request. Leo requests a column for the account charge codes be added to the spreadsheet which has now been added.

Tom Holder informed the Commissioners that Capital Request discussions are ongoing. Budget discussions will start soon thereafter.

Tom Holder discussed the fact that the water ban has been extended until further notice due to the elevated drought conditions. Massachusetts has not had this severe of a drought in recent history.

Tom Holder also informed the Commissioners about an issue with the generators at the High School. We became aware that the existing generators at the High School cannot provide enough power to run the building in an emergency situation. A test was performed last week. It will cost the town approximately

\$4,600 annually to have a mobile generator on retainer. This will allow the town to provide emergency shelter in the event it is needed.

Directors Report Continued:

Lastly Tom Holder discussed the LCC (Lead Copper Contamination) Testing Program. The Governor has approved funds to municipalities for testing of lead and copper. The town applied for a grant for our lead and copper testing. Tom informed the group that our staff worked diligently overnight to obtain the necessary first draw samples, maintain the proper chain of custody and send the samples out for testing with the oversight of Ted Kenney, who volunteered his time to help with the testing.

Member prerogative:

Leo O'Rourke asks for an update on the DPS Facility. The existing Highway location on Broad Street is back on the table as the site where a new facility would be built.

Chan Rogers made a motion to adjourn at 6:22 PM. Robert Wilson seconded.

Unanimous vote, 3-0.
