



TOWN OF MEDWAY  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

**Commissioners**

Leo O'Rourke, Vice Chair  
Steven Burke, Member  
Michael Callahan, Member

**Meeting Minutes**

**Approved 09/09/2019**

August 5, 2019

Medway Middle School  
45 Holliston Street, Door # 9  
Medway MA 02053

**In attendance:** Leo O'Rourke, Acting Chairperson  
Michael Callahan, Commissioner  
Steven Burke, Commissioner

**Also in attendance:** Dave D'Amico DPW Director, Barry Smith Water & Sewer Superintendent, Chris Sutherland and Ed Sutherland and Judi LaPan Program Administrator and Recording Secretary

Acting Chairman O'Rourke called the Water & Sewer Commissioners meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes from the 06/25/19 meeting. Commissioner Callahan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

**Abatement Requests**

**2 Country Way**

In November 2018 prior to the leak being found, staff Received a call from Chris Sutherland notifying the Town that his father Ralph Sutherland had passed away and that the house would be vacant until they got through probate court. He stated he would notify us when that changed. He left his contact information and asked that the bills be sent to him. On 02/20/19 while researching the bill run I noticed extremely high consumption at the property. I called Chris Sutherland and he confirmed that the property was still vacant. The Water Superintendent was immediately notified to investigate significant flow based on the hourly reads. The Fire Dept. was notified and they gained entry into the house. A pipe froze and ruptured, filling the basement with

water. Water was shut off at the curb until repairs could be made to the property. On March 14, 2019 water service was restored. The Sutherlands were assessed a frozen meter charge.

It appears that the leak represented 17,891 cf of water that did not enter the sewer system. The cost of the leak is \$2,021.31 minus the minimum charge of \$39.45 = \$1,981.86 **for water charges** and \$1,760.26 minus the minimum charge of \$33.50 = \$1,672.76 **for sewer charges**.

**Commissioner Callahan made a motion to waive the 90 day timeframe to apply for an abatement due to the severity of the damage and the fact that ongoing repairs were scheduled and proof of repair is needed for an abatement request. Commissioner O'Rourke seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.**

**Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to abate all sewer charges as the water did not enter the sewer system. Commissioner Callahan seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.**

**Commissioner Callahan made a motion to charge all water used and lost to tier one. Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to amend the motion to include waiving the new meter fee. Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.**

#### **4 Henry Street**

A water valve repair was scheduled for overnight on 07/25/19. Residents on the streets tied to these valves being repaired were notified of the overnight repair and that the water would be shut off from 9PM until the repair was completed approximately six hours later. The Shanefsky's were not notified of the repair work and shutdown as their street was not anticipated to be affected. Unfortunately, they were affected due to a valving error. They are requesting an abatement for the water used to flush the sediment from their fixtures once water was restored and the resulting inconvenience. Their average daily consumption is 13.4 cf. Based on their meter reading at 9 PM on July 25, 2019 when water was shut down (42697) and the reading at 11:59 PM on July 26, 2019 (more than 12 hours after their water was restored)(42712) they used 15 cf of water. The breakdown is as follows: 15 cf @ \$9.07 = \$1.36 for water and 15 cf@ \$8.56 = \$1.28 for sewer for a total of \$2.64 in water and sewer used to flush sediment from the repair.

**Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to deny the abatement. Per the Town of Medway Water & Sewer Regulations, Article IV A4.4 The Department shall have the right to interrupt the water supply to make repairs, changes or connections to its mains or other equipment. Reasonable efforts will be made to notify the customer in advance of any discontinuance of service, but, in time of emergency, the Department may not be able to do so. The Department shall not be responsible for any loss or damage incurred by said shut off, or while making repairs. Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. Unanimous.**

#### **Water Conservation Rebate Program**

**Commissioner Callahan made a motion to accept and approve the changes to the program.**

**Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. The motion carries unanimously.** The Commissioners were informed that the brochure will be mailed to all water & sewer customers at the end of this month with the August utility bills.

**Directors Report:**

Director D'Amico informed the Commissioners that we have received DEP approval for the satellite wells. The project is funded. The next step will be putting the project out to bid. The work will be performed by a well contractor. We will need to pump two observation wells on the property. This is DEP mandated to ensure water quality. Director D'Amico discussed that A.D. Paolini won the bid and has begun construction on the transmission line from the Village Street well to Walker Street. He also informed the Commissioners that the Splash Pad has used approximately 440,000 gallons of water since opening. This equates to almost continuous use within the hours of operation.

Superintendent Smith informed the Commissioners that his department has been working on sewer system maintenance and installing sample stations. The DEP mandates that 15 sites are sampled monthly. He also mentioned that system wide leak detection will begin next week.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday September 9, 2019 at 6:30 PM. The meetings will be held in the DPS Conference Room, 45B Holliston Street, Door 9, Medway MA.

**Commissioner Callahan made a motion to adjourn at 7: 45PM. Commissioner O'Rourke seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi LaPan