



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

Leo O'Rourke, Chair

Francis E. (Ted) Kenney
Jr., Member

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 11/20/17

October 23, 2017

DPS Conference Room

45B Holliston Street

Medway MA 02053

At 4PM the Commissioners viewed a demonstration of the Aquahawk Software, which is a software reporting system similar to the Water Smart technology. The Commissioners then proceeded to their regularly scheduled meeting.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:02 PM.

Ted Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.

Ted Kenney makes a motion to approve the minutes with modifications from the 09/11/17 meeting. Leo O'Rourke seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Abatement Requests:

Green Acres Hydroseeding, located at 27 Jayar Road is not requesting an abatement but is requesting the Commission reclassify the water charges from irrigation to commercial rates. This is a commercial account that uses a seasonal meter from April – November annually to fill the tank of his hydro seeding truck. Mr. Solari does not feel that he should be charged the irrigation rate as he is not irrigating and is running a commercial business. Commissioner O'Rourke says that he feels that they are making a product with water and should be charged the Commercial rate. Commissioner Kenney asks what do our regulations state regarding this? He thinks that this could be the type of account where the rates are neither commercial nor irrigation. This type of use is considered a bulk distribution or bulk fill as they fill a tank to make their product. Barry Smith says that we are in the business of selling water but also conserving water. This usage is an elected use. The usage is for a non-essential application. The Commissioners will take this under advisement and have requested that Judi LaPan research what surrounding communities charge for the same application. They would also like to have the numbers run at the commercial rate vs the irrigation rate and available for discussion at the November meeting.

Abatement Request – Carly Baker – 18 Autumn Road

This is a well account with Town sewer. The owners are requesting a sewer abatement. The owners filled a pool that is set up seasonally with their well water only to determine there was a leak in the liner. They made the repair themselves and refilled the pool. They are requesting a sewer only abatement for the water that did not enter the sewer system. The pool has a capacity of 7500 gallons or 1002 cf. Based on their prior consumption and the need for two full pool fills it appears that 1,759 cf of water did not enter the sewer system. $1,759 \times \$5.88 = \103.43 that can be abated.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the abatement as written above. The owners used their well water, not town water to fill the pool. Ted Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.

Abatement Request – Patt Irr- 13 Cutler Street

This is a water & sewer account. The owners are requesting a sewer only abatement. The owners filled a pool that is set up seasonally. They are requesting a sewer only abatement for the water that did not enter the sewer system. The pool has a capacity of 5287 gallons or 707 cf. Based on their prior consumption and the pool fill it appears that 700 cf of water did not enter the sewer system. $700 \times \$5.88 = \41.66 that could be abated.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to deny the abatement as written above as the water was used during the Mass DEP Mandated Water Ban for non-essential use. Ted Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.

Abatement Request – Hithendra Potho - 4 Charles View Lane

Their outside spigot broke on June 25th, Sunday while they were away for the day. They shut the spigot off when they returned and heard the water running. They went to Home Depot and replaced the spigot themselves. They did not know they would need the receipt for the spigot and did not save it. It appears that 652 cf of water was lost and did not enter the sewer system. $652 \times \$5.88 = \38.33 that could be abated.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the abatement as written above. Ted Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.

Abatement Request – Rob Condon - 3 Rustic Road

This is a water & sewer account. The owner is requesting a sewer only abatement on their August 2017 bill. In December 2016 they completed installation of an in-ground pool (filled the pool with a tanker truck at this time). The yard was torn up and after installing new decking in April/May 2017 (installer was Curbs Inc. in Milford, MA) they had to plant new grass around the perimeter of the pool. They do not have an irrigation system so used sprinklers on timers to try to grow some grass during the course of May and June not realizing exactly how much water was being used and what the cost would be. The vast majority of the bill is due to this water usage and feel their sewer usage would not have changed at all.

Abatement Request – Rob Condon - 3 Rustic Road- (Continued)

After realizing the cost they have said they can assure you that this kind of water usage for the lawn will not occur again. They would appreciate any help you could provide for an abatement related to the sewer portion of the bill. Based on their prior consumption of 2,438cf for the past three same like cycles it appears that 4,480 cf of water did not enter the sewer system. Putting 4,480cf through the tiers the breakdown is as follows: $2000 \times \$5.88 = \117.60 , $1499 \times 6.66 = \$99.83$, $980\text{cf} \times \$8.81 = \86.33 = a total of \$ 303.76 in sewer only charges that could be abated.

Leo O'Rourke makes a motion to approve the abatement as written above. The owners will be informed that the MassDEP mandated water ban does not allow for more than two weeks to establish a new lawn and any future abatement requests will not be entertained. Ted Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.

Abatement Request – Craig Shaiva - 8 Ellis Street

This is a water only account. We were unable to get automated meter readings for the past 5 bill cycles (15 months). We left a blue postcard each bill cycle making the owners aware that there was a problem with obtaining readings and asking them to contact the town to make an appointment so we could determine what the problem was. They were non-responsive. The office recently left a voice mail asking the owners to contact us to make an appointment. They did respond to this message, an appointment was made. On 09/15/17 the Water Technician found that there were broken wires between the meter and MXU, which was why we were not getting remote readings. The meter however was still reading accurately. While unable to get remote readings I was estimating the account and it turns out I was underestimating the account. They purchased the home in the fall of 2014 so we only have one summers worth of usage history. They do have an in ground pool. The owner is requesting that the last bill with an estimated read of 14,436cf be put through the tiers to bring the cyclical charges down. As we were not getting readings I have no way to know what was used each quarterly cycle. If you take the estimated consumption from 08/15/17 of 14436cf and divided it by the last 5 bill cycles that we could not get readings it would be an average of 2,887cf. Putting 2,8874cf through the tiers the breakdown is as follows: $2000 \times \$7.17 = \143.40 , $887 \times 8.63 = \$76.55$ = a total of \$ 219.95. Five bill cycles \times \$219.95 = 1099.75. He was charged \$1461.59 on the August 2017 bill. The difference that would be abated is \$361.84. The actual meter read we obtained on 09/15/17 was higher than the estimated August bill. There is an additional 3,757cf that was not yet billed between underestimating and the actual read. This will not be billed until the November bill.

Ted Kenney makes a motion to deny the abatement as written above as we have no way of knowing how much water was used each bill cycle. He suspects the charges could have been higher if billed as they should have been had we been getting actual reads. The Commissioners also felt that had the homeowners been responsive to the notices this would not have been a problem. Leo O'Rourke seconded, unanimous vote.

Directors Report:

Mr. Smith informed the Commissioners that we continue performing upgrades at the Populatic Well. Previously if the VFD failed it was our only option to run the well. We now have a secondary VFD at three out of four of the wells. Mr. Smith informed the Commissioners that we are done with hydrant flushing in zone 4 and have started flushing on zone 5. He informed the Commissioners that the Highland Water Tank inspection and cleaning were performed, a fall leak detection is scheduled and the Haley & Ward Wells and Treatment Evaluation is scheduled to be completed and to DPS for review within the next two weeks. Interviews for the Compliance Coordinator are scheduled.

Open Discussion: None

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2017 at 5PM. The meeting will be held in the DPS Conference Room, 45B Holliston Street, Door 9, Medway, MA.

Ted Kenney made a motion to adjourn at 6:25PM PM. Leo O'Rourke seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi LaPan