



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

Leo O'Rourke, Chair

Francis E. (Ted) Kenney Jr.,
Member

Barry Zide, Member

Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 1/22/2018

December 18, 2017
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, residents George and Jenny Clancy and Recording Secretary Judi LaPan.

Commissioner O'Rourke makes a motion to open the Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting at 5:01 PM. Commissioner Kenney seconded, unanimous vote.

Commissioner Kenney makes a motion to approve the minutes with modifications from the 11/20/17 meeting. Commissioner O'Rourke seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Abatement Requests:

Abatement Request – Mark Chioppa – 5 Beatrice Lane

This is a water & sewer account. The owner is requesting a sewer only abatement. The owners had to drain the pool and replace the liner of their in ground pool. They are requesting a sewer only abatement for the water that did not enter the sewer system. This is a water & sewer account. The owner is requesting a sewer only abatement for the water that did not enter the sewer system. The pool has a capacity of 20,000 gallons or 2,674 cf. Based on their prior consumption and the pool fill it appears that 2,674 cf of water did not enter the sewer system. $2,000 \times \$5.88 = \117.60 , $674 \times \$6.66 = \44.89 for a total of \$162.49 that could be abated.

Commissioner Kenney made a motion to approve the abatement as written above. Commissioner Zide seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Abatement Request – George Clancy – 3 Sherwood Drive

This is a water & sewer account. They were fined \$100 for using their irrigation meter on the August billing. They continued utilizing their irrigation system and were fined \$200 per day for every day they continued to use the irrigation from the date of the first fine until the end of the bill cycle (27 DAYS x \$200=\$5,400). The owner is requesting an abatement on the daily fines as he was unaware of the water ban prohibiting irrigation usage and he did not feel that it was clear that the term "work order" on his utility bill meant that it was a fine. He feels that the term "work order" doesn't properly describe a fine for irrigation or any other offense. He also stated that he wasn't directly notified that there was a \$200 a day fine that was accumulating from the last bill. He thought he was doing the right thing by watering prior to sunrise and after sunset.

Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to waive the Water Ban Violation Fine as it was not clear on the billing what the work order charge was for. The fine is waived with the provision that this is the only time they will waive the fine and they do not expect a repeat offense. The Clancy's understand and agree with the provision. The description will be changed in Munis to prevent this from occurring in the future. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Abatement Request – Paul Rojee -17 Kelley Street

This is a water & sewer account. They were fined \$100 for using their irrigation meter on the August billing. They continued utilizing their irrigation system and were fined \$200 per day for every day they continued to use the irrigation from the date of the first fine until the end of the bill cycle (3 DAYS x \$200=\$600). The owner is requesting an abatement on the daily fines as he did not feel that it was clear that the term "work order" on his utility bill meant that it was a fine. He feels that the term "work order" doesn't properly describe a fine for irrigation or any other offense. He did not realize this was attributed to the use of the irrigation system. He states he would NOT have used his irrigation system this past quarter. He is requesting to abate this \$600 Work Order charge as a first time offender with the understanding if he continue to use town water for irrigation, he will be subject to the fines going forward. He also stated that he was aware of the ban BUT he walks the middle school track early every morning and noticed the Town waters those fields regularly so he assumed he could water my lawn. It wasn't until he called the office on 12/6 did he understand the town has its own well for irrigation.

Commissioner Zide made a motion to waive the Water Ban Violation Fine as it was not clear on the billing what the work order charge was for. The fine is waived with the provision that this is the only time they will waive the fine and they do not expect a repeat offense. Mr. Rojee was notified and understands and agrees with the provision. The description will be changed in Munis to prevent this from occurring in the future. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. Unanimous.

At a prior meeting Green Acres Hydroseeding, located at 27 Jayar Road requested that the Commissioners reclassify the water rates 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 feels that the water use does not fit into the traditional use of potable water. This usage is an elected use for a non-essential application for a for profit business. Commissioner O'Rourke feels that the business is helping to grow grass which is a good conservation issue as it prevents erosion, etc. and he does not see a down side. Commissioner Kenney would like to see a hydro-seeding permit fee, similar to what other towns charge discussed when the fee structure is reviewed in the spring. The Commissioners reviewed the research of what surrounding communities' policies are. Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to reclassify the charges to the commercial rate and issue a credit for half of the difference between the irrigation rate and the commercial rate for the past two years. There was not a second motion. Commissioner O'Rourke made a motion to reclassify the charges to the commercial rate going forward. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Directors Report:

Barry Smith informed the Commissioners that that we have been working with AquaHawk and a contract has been signed. Commissioner O'Rourke asks how we will be paying for the new software program. For now it will be paid from the regular Water & Sewer budget. The first year is the most expensive with setup fees. Mr. Smith also informed the Commissioners that the leak detection is complete and the survey was very successful this year. Ten leaks were identified this past month. All residents have been notified verbally and by certified return receipt mail. Eight of these have been repaired and the other two are scheduled.

Open Discussion:

The Compliance Coordinator Stephanie Carlisle has been hired and started last month. Her first task was to talk to all of the DPS Superintendents and put together an annual compliance calendar. She is currently working on the Green Communities Grant. She will be also working on Solid Waste, MS4 Permitting and EPA-USMR regulations just to name a few of her responsibilities.

Dave D'Amico discussed the IWRMP Task Force Meeting that he attended. He states that the driving forces are water quality and quantity issues. Commissioner O'Rourke asked Mr. D'Amico how he felt the meeting with the Selectmen to discuss the Haley & Ward report was received. Mr. D'Amico feels that we

need to prioritize what Haley & Ward is recommending. He feels that eventually the Selectmen will look to the Water & Sewer Commissioners for their recommendations. Commissioner O'Rourke asks where the funding necessary will come from. He feels that there is a general sense that the BOS feel that Exelon

funds will help cover the cost of these improvements. There is also a general sense that most of the Exelon money has already been committed to other issues. Commissioner Kenney states that there are a lot of moving parts and we will need to prioritize. Commissioner O'Rourke states that he would like to see 500K annually from Exelon funds to help fund drinking water improvements. 70% of the town's residents will be affected by the increases needed to fund the improvements. Commissioner Zide would like to see a commitment to a phased approach to the improvements. Unfortunately a phased approach does cost more in the long run.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2018 at 5PM. The meeting will be held in the DPS Conference Room, 45B Holliston Street, Door 9, Medway, MA.

Commissioner Zide made a motion to adjourn at 6:31PM. Commissioner Kenney seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi LaPan