

A meeting of the Town of Barnstable's Hyannis Water Board was held on November 10, 2009 at 3:15 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA.

In attendance were Skip Simpson, Tom Holmes, Deb Krau and Peter Cross.

Staff present: Hans Keijser, Supervisor, Water Supply Division.

Public present: Tom Cambareri, Scott Michaud from the Cape Cod Commission, Ken Maltese from United, Susan Campbell.

A quorum being present, Chairman Krau called the meeting to order at 3:20 PM.

The Agenda was approved.

The Minutes of the October 27, 2009 meeting were approved with amendments.

Tom Cambareri distributed a handout on perchlorate readings at the Mary Dunn well site They have been getting very good readouts and may be able to get the well back on line soon. The graph showed a lowering of all counts. Testing resumed in the spring when system was turned back on and the recovery well tested in excess of 2 parts per million, a spike believed to be caused by residuals in the line, but not known, so the well has remained shut down. Monthly testing has shown non-detect levels for two months at the Mary Dunn 2 well, any residual should go away when pumping returns. With clean testing, the well should be able to be brought back on line. Weekly sampling will continue.

THE MOU terms were recapped and a map showing levels at each well over time was discussed. Krau asked – when will our payments kick in? Cambareri said that 2 years is the default. If conditions are not met, the County will continue the program. We have not yet hit the conditions. Cambareri said they should be seeing non-detects by next spring. Keijser said he will set up a stringent testing protocol to get a feel for what's going on. The detects should be under .25 ppm for 6 months. Cambareri said Bourne has a similar situation with trace levels coming from the Base.

Simpson asked – there is no testing on wells 1 and 3, just 2 is down. Cambareri said he will be testing all three wells, per DEP regulations. Cambareri said the water meets drinking water standards now, it is at a level where, should it be necessary to pump, it can be done.

Abatement request of Susan Campbell, 41 Chestnut St, Hyannis. The applicant said that the bill was sent to an incorrect address for three years. She has lived at this address for 43 years. When the error was corrected by United, she got a \$600 bill for the three years in arrears and she requests an adjustment because they didn't get the bills. Keijser agreed that the WWP bills did go to the wrong address and that it did not get corrected by them. The returned mail was sent by WWP to United when the turn over occurred and United staff verified the address and sent a bill to the correct address. This is a foul-up of WWP, but he said both sides are at fault because neither attempted to correct the situation.

Maltese said United has a process to trace returned mail and believes this is the only case.

Krau asked do we know how much of the bill is interest? Keijser said it is hard to determine the breakdown. The Board determined it to be approximately \$6.37 per bill times 4 bills per year.

A Motion was made and seconded to abate the interest, at least \$80.

Cross agrees that both parties are at fault and suggests a split down the middle. Krau said the request for abatement is for \$452.54, \$326.27 is half.

Simpson said there is no question the water was used, it was just not paid for. What happens if a larger account comes in and asks for a deal. Cross agrees there is a liability in this precedent. Holmes asked why did no one knocked on the door.

A Motion was made and seconded to abate half the amount billed.

VOTE:

AYE Holmes and Cross

NAY Krau and Simpson

A Motion was made and seconded to abate interest in the amount of \$80

VOTE:

AYE: Simpson and Krau

Campbell offered to donate the abated amount to the Needy Fund.

Keijser suggested half of the amount of the request, \$226.27

Simpson made a Motion to amend the amount to \$80 plus \$100 as an aggravation fee, for a total \$180 because both parties are at fault.

VOTE: Unanimous to abate \$180.00

Operations Report. Maltese said actual receivables are now being used for the report. Past reports didn't account for accounting adjustments. Collections have started as of last month. There is a hard core balance that will never be collected, some accounts have not been paid since 2006 and interest is still accruing. We need to let collections continue. WWP was probably understating receivables due to reporting differences, United uses a fully integrated accounting system. Krau asked if it is possible to leave the WWP numbers as a separate line and look only aged days under United. Maltese said he could revise the report and change column titles to show the change.

Cross asked – can we identify those from whom we have no hope of collecting and write them off? Maltese said these accounts have been separated out and the information given to Keijser, but there is no way to determine that they are not going to pay.

Maltese will get the Board the list of accounts 120 days overdue with no current activity.

Cross asked is there some way, such as a mechanics lien, that we can use to collect. The current means is that the property owner is stuck with bill and the water won't be turned back on until bill is paid. This is a question for Legal.

Collection letters have gone out and money coming in. The Board needs a shut off list and Town Councilors need to know about the letters. Cross does not think he should have the names, citing privacy. Maltese said that as private utility United is not allowed to reveal names.

Krau asked the Board to call their Councilors before Thanksgiving that to tell them we are attempting collections from accounts over 120 days and \$1000.

Krau asked Maltese - Where is the new project manager? Maltese said internal legal issues need to be resolved, but that training underway. He hopes this will be concluded soon, he expects before Christmas.

#### Fiscal Year 2011 Fees

Krau asked for a Vote on the fees recommended in the Study.

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend the fee structure as a modified alternative 6 from the consultant's report with the customer service component based on equivalent meter size capped at 2" meter and a public fire readiness charge based on square footage with a cap at 600,000 square feet.

VOTE: Unanimous

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend a quarterly rate of \$.00125 per square foot for public fire readiness utilizing square footage blocks up to 600,000 square feet. Buildings in excess of 600,000 square feet would be charged a quarterly flat fee of \$750.

The customer service charge would be based on equivalent meter size with a cap at 2". For a meter equivalent of 1 (5/8" meter) the quarterly cost would be \$23.14.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor to recommend

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend residential usage fees with variable block charges as outlined on page 2 of the handout.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor to recommend

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend the fee for private fire protection to be determined by line size per quarter, with no sprinkler head charge.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor to recommend

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend system development charges to be determined by line size, with a minimum of a 1" service.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor to recommend

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend no change to the current tapping fee, currently \$35K as opposed to a per house charge.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor to recommend no change

A Motion was made and seconded to leave the remaining Miscellaneous fees as is for the next year.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor to recommend no change

#### PROPOSED FY2011 CIP Program

The Board reviewed the five projects proposed for funding in the next fiscal year. The DEP groundwater rule change recently promulgated means that only the Mary Dunn Treatment facility is in compliance for chlorination before it reaches the first customer. The other plants do not comply. The bottom line is that we need more contact time before water reaches the first customer. One solution is to increase the size of the pipe coming out of treatment plants and snake the line to increase the chlorine and pipe contact time before it reaches the first customer.

The Downtown Water Main project now being bid will accommodate needed changes at the Maher plant through an Add Alternate for a 36" pipe replacement, which would take care of the requirements for that treatment plant. The Straightway and Hyannisport plants will need to have pipe looped behind the plant.

The question is - where to get \$1 million to pay for these improvements? It is possible to shift the proposed CIP #3, intended to replace the 6" main in Scudder Avenue with a 12" main from Craigville Beach Road to Greenwood Avenue, or to push back #3 another year and substitute this project. This work could be modified and piggy backed onto the H1 west – sewer project as it is proposed for same location as the water line due to the proposed pump station. The thought is to replace the line in Greenwood to tie in the downtown main. This might lessen the need to do Scudder Avenue at this time. The upgrades to the piping at the Straightway and Hyannisport treatment plants for compliance with the groundwater rule could also be substituted for #3. An issue is that projects have been planned out and funding sources identified for projects now in the CIP. Changing the order of the projects and funding stream may jeopardize related planned projects.

Since the pipe replacement money for this year would be spent in the area that was to be addressed in the original capital request 3 of 5, the Board felt that the money would be better spent making changes to snake the piping at Hyannisport and Straightway treatment plant in

order to increase the contact time from chlorine injection to first distribution. The estimates from Tighe and Bond indicate that the money already in CIP 3 would be sufficient to accomplish this construction at Hyannisport and Straightway. In addition, the Board felt that there would an improvement in water quality in this area.

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Town Council Approval of Capital Improvement Project 3 of 5 changing the scope to do the upgrade of piping at the treatment plants instead of Craigville Beach Road.

VOTE: Unanimous

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Town Council approval of Capital Improvement Project 1 of 5.

VOTE: Unanimous

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Town Council approval of Capital Improvement Project 1 of 2.

The Board discussed expenses listed in #13, Operating Budget Impact and determined they were listed in error

VOTE: Unanimous with the deletion of the \$10K Expenses listed in years 2013-2015.

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Town Council approval of Capital Improvement Project 4 of 5.

VOTE: Unanimous with the listing of donations and that funds would be borrowed.

A Motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Town Council approval of Capital Improvement Project 5 of 5.

VOTE: Unanimous with the change that funds should be available starting in FY2013 (No.11)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Geoffrion

