

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2008  
MEETING ROOM 105**

Present: Jared Adams, Jeff Weise,  
Doug Valovcin, Ron Sharpin, Linda Mann

**Meeting convened at 7:00 pm**

**MBTE Settlement**

Mr. Adams mentioned a recent article in the newspaper that references the MBTE settlement. Mr. Sharpin was called by the reporter and asked for comments.

**Electrical Consortium**

Mr. Adams reported that he spoke with Paul LeBeau, Town Manager, about the possibility of the Water Department joining the town in their electricity consortium. Mr. Adams expressed concern that there may be a problem because of the many electrical accounts that the department has.

**Board of Water Commissioner Departure**

Mr. Adams announced that Sam Corda, Board of Water Commissioner, will be submitting a letter of resignation soon. The board will be seeking a new Commissioner.

**Ellen Kennedy – 131 Rolling Meadow Drive**

Ellen Kennedy of 131 Rolling Meadow Drive appeared before the board to discuss the testing of her water meter.

Mr. Sharpin distributed a report on her water usage since 2006. Her meter was removed and replaced with the new meter on 1/10/08. He also listed her water usage since that date.

Her old meter was sent out for testing - Mr. Sharpin displayed the certificate for testing. It showed 99.7% accuracy. She was given a copy of the report. Mr. Valovcin reviewed the testing procedure which tests at three different flow rates. The report shows that the water actually went through the meter and it registered it accurately.

She felt that the water usage over last year was higher related to her previous history.

She has a sprinkler system that is tested every year but does not use it. Mr. Valovcin mentioned that there were possibilities for leakage due to different zones.

The board reviewed her usage from December 2006 to January 10, 2008 (installation of the new meter and MTU).

Richard Maccagnano arrived at 7:15pm.

Ms Kennedy believes that her water usage is now “more normal” since the new meter was installed. Therefore, she does not feel that she should pay the higher amount.

Mr. Adams indicated that the board will be contacting Ms Kennedy soon.

Ms Kennedy left at 7:25pm.

### **Richard Maccagnano – Washington Street Property – Water Bill**

Richard Maccagnano appeared before the board to discuss his latest water bill for his property on Washington Street. He questions why this period (1/1/08 – 3/31/08) costs more than twice as much as before. There were no estimates made because there were actual readings taken for the last few years.

On 8/14/08, a reading was taken on the old meter (which was NOT removed when three new meters were installed). The following readings are:

From 3/19/08 – 8/14/08 old meter read 11, 547cf

From 3/19/08 – 8/14/08 three new meters read 11,635cf

Since older meters read slower than new meters, the readings indicate that the old meter was working properly. Mr. Maccagnano told the board that he is not questioning the accuracy of the meter. Mr. Sharpin explained that the old meter reading is reasonably close to the three new meters, and there were no estimates made.

Mr. Maccagnano tol the board that he has not done any outside watering (no outside access), there were no toilet leaks, and no dishwashers in either of the two restaurants on the property. Business has been steady.

He has no objection to paying an average of what he was paying before.

The board informed him that they will meet to discuss this issue and will send their decision to him.

Mr. Maccagnano left at 7:40pm.

### **Water Bill Dispute Discussion**

The board discussed Ellen Kennedy’s water bill first. There was an estimated reading made during the time period that she is disputing. The board decided to calculate the bill using two actual readings of 7/13/06 to 7/5/07.

Mr. Valovcin recommended that estimates be used for upcoming bills of property owners who are resisting installation of new meters.

Mr. Sharpin reported that a Francine Drive resident has consented to installation of the new meter and MTU on October 15, 2008.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Move that we adjust Ellen Kennedy’s water bill using actual to actual readings and pro-rate it”**

**Mr. Weise seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Adams and Mr. Weise voted in favor of the motion.**

Wayne Travis, Elad Orenstein, and Bill Barker arrived at 7:50pm

The board then discussed Richard Maccagnano's water bill. In view of the back-up of the old meter which is still in place, and the fact that he is dealing with three tenants, Mr. Adams felt that no adjustment should be made to the bill.

Mr. Weise agreed with this.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **"Motion that no adjustments be made to Richard Maccagnano's water bill"**

**Mr. Weise seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Weise and Mr. Adams voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Adams asked Ms Mann to send a letter to Mr. Maccagnano informing him of the board's decision.

### **Zoning Board of Appeals**

The board discussed "Wilson Acres", a proposed development at the Hopkinton/Holliston line at Wilson Street. Mr. Valovcin will look at the proposal to determine if there are water issues. There is Holliston water on Hanlon Street which connects to Wilson Street.

Comments are due October 2, 2008.

### **Deer Run Development – 379 Underwood Street**

Mr. Adams reported that Michael Healy, lawyer for the Deer Run development, contacted him. He informed Mr. Adams that Mike Cassidy, Fire Chief, told him that he can get water pressure at the property. Mr. Valovcin met with Schofield Brothers engineers last week. He discussed what they might try, and he reported that they will report back to him after they have investigated options. Mr. Adams recommended that the Water Department make calculations of their own.

### **MBTE Settlement**

Mr. Adams has just signed on behalf of two (2) additional defendants involved with the MBTE settlement.

Bill Tobin arrived at 8:05pm.

### **MTU Performance**

Bill Barker and Wayne Travis from Mass Installation Inc. and Elad Orenstein of KP Electronics appeared before the board to discuss the performance of the MTUs.

Mr. Adams expressed concern about MTUs that suddenly stop sending signals and then restart without intervention. Mr. Orenstein told the board about the two generations of MTUs. Mass Installation began to install the first generation in November 2007 and

completed most of the installation by Summer 2007. KP has discovered that the capacitors in some units were defective. The company has been replacing those found with a defective capacitor with the second generation of MTUs. It is a more advanced MTU.

Mr. Orenstein told the board that KP will extend the service contract (which expired in September 2008) for one more year at no charge.

Mr. Travis, Mr. Barker, and Mr. Orenstein left at 8:25pm

### **New Meter and MTU Installation – Status**

The board will produce estimated bills for those property owners who have not responded to the department's request to install new meters and MTUs. Ms Mann distributed a list of those non-responders who have a number of unpaid water bills.

She reported that the Office Staff has been making calls to people on the list and have been somewhat successful in setting up appointments for the replacement. The staff will continue their attempts.

### **Fall Town Meeting Articles**

Paul LeBeau has requested a "break-out" of the field expenses which include electricity, propane, and chemical costs from Mr. Sharpin.

### **Water Quality Complaints**

Mr. Sharpin reported that there were two complaints about water quality from the west side of Holliston. The fire in that area may have contributed to the calls.

### **Well #4 – Status**

The department is waiting for chemicals that are needed so that a pilot can be completed. EarthTech plans to come to the town on September 30, 2008 to be conducting the pilot. Well #4 is expected to be up one week later.

### **Well #6 - Status**

Mr. Sharpin submitted a letter to DEP. Off-line since 9/20/08, he expects Well #6 on-line soon. Mr. Valovcin expects that flushing will begin the first full week of October 2008 because chemicals are expected this week. Flushing notices will be on the web-site.

### **Hydraulic Simulation Model**

FST will arrive in Holliston when the flushing of the water pipes begins so that they can get values.

**Cellular Antennae RFP**

Mr. Sharpin will be working on the RFP. Since the department cannot make a decision until after the Fall Town Meeting, he expects them to go out after the Town Meeting.

**Chemistry Study**

Mr. Sharpin reports that the Chemistry Study is on-going.  
Bill Tobin left at 8:58pm.

**Minutes Review**

No minutes were reviewed.

**Invoices and Change Orders**

Invoices and change orders were signed by the board.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to adjourn”**

**Mr. Weise seconded the motion.**

**Mr. Adams and Mr. Weise voted in favor of the motion.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

**Next BWC meeting – Wednesday, October 8, 2008 at 7:00pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Keating

Clerk

Approved 10/7/08 as written

## **AGENDA**

### **Board of Water Commissioners Meeting**

**September 24, 2008**

***(Meeting to start at 7:00 PM in Room #105)***

- **Public Comments - (7:00-7:15)**
- **Water Bills – (7:15-7:45)**
  - \*Ellen Kennedy –
  - \*Richard Maccagnano-
- **ZBA Applications –(7:45-7:50)**
- **MTBE Status–(7:50-8:00)**
- **MTU Performance- (8:00-8:45)**
  - \*Discussion with Wayne Travis and Elad
- **Review of Previous Discussions – (8:45-9:00)**
  - \*Meter Change-Out:
    - Status of None Responders
    - No Response Letter
    - Court Order
- **Fall Town Meeting Articles –(9:00-9:15)**
  - \*Review of meeting with Finance Committee
- **Water Department Activities: (9:15-9:30)**
  - \*Water Quality Complaints
  - \*Well #4-status
  - \*Well #6-status
  - \*Hydraulic Simulation Model-FST contract
  - \*Cellular Antenna-RFP
- **Minutes-review/approval – (9:30-9:45)**
- **Invoices, Contracts and Change Orders (9:45-10:00)**
- **On-Going Activities –Status**
  - \*Chemistry Study-status

**Next BWC Meeting – October 8, 2008 @7:00PM @ Town Hall**