

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 15, 2008
MEETING ROOM 014**

Present: Jared Adams, Jeff Weise, Dennis Ferreira
Doug Valovcin, Ron Sharpin

Meeting convened at 8:10 pm

New Water Commissioner

The Board of Water Commissioners met with the Board of Selectman to choose a Water Commissioner to complete former Commissioner Sam Corda's position which ends in May 2009..

Dennis Ferreira was chosen by a majority of both boards to become a Water Commissioner.

High Water Bill

Carol Rosenfelt, 40 Bald Hill Road, appeared before the board to dispute her water bill. Called by her landscaper in July 2008 who witnessed water pouring from her basement sliding glass doors, she learned that a water leak had flooded her basement. She incurred a \$20,000.00 loss of property. The leak was caused when "an elbow of the booster pump let go."

She has just received her water usage bill for that quarter. She told the board that she is refusing to pay the \$1075.00 bill because she had previously received three documents from the Water Department that indicated that homeowners would be called if there were high water usage detected.

She also refused to file this latest bill with her insurance company because she believes that she was given a false sense of security by the three documents.

She then agreed to pay TIER1 and TIER2 charges for the first day of the leak, but not any charges incurred after that day.

Mr. Sharpin explained to Ms Rosefelt that no commitment was made by the Water Department to notify homeowners. The Water Department is attempting to mail bills within two weeks of each quarter's end, but Mr. Weise explained that the system is still being installed. Since her meter had been installed just one month before, there was no way for the department to know her circumstances. He estimated that it will be at least one year of history before any kind of contact **could** be made to homeowners. The Water Department is not willing to accept liability. There is no protocol nor is there any ability to be pro-active at this point in time.

Ms Rosenfelt asked that the board "come up with a better remedy for me." Mr. Adams said that the board will discuss the issue and would inform Ms Rosenfelt of their decision. She asked that it be resolved by February 1, 2009 because that is the due date of this bill.

Ms Rosenfelt left the meeting at 8:40pm.

The board discussed Ms Rosenfelt's claim. After viewing her water usage during the time of the leak, Mr. Valovcin informed the board that the usage fluctuated from low to high to low to high again. This inconsistent usage did not indicate a continuing major water leak.

The board asked Mr. Valovcin to investigate Ms Rosenfelt's meter and closet area. Mr. Ferreira volunteered to help Ms Rosenfelt to re-open her house insurance claim. He would explain to the company that she has just received the water bill.

The board discussed the ramifications of setting the Critical Consumption for properties with Mr. Valovcin.

The board will wait until Mr. Valovcin makes his inspection to make a final decision.

Marian Community Development Center - Status

Mr. Sharpin gave Ali Parand information about the fire flow at the Marian Community Development Center on Summer Street. Mr. Parand has concerns about the fire flow demand with six-inch pipes. Mr. Valovcin thought that there was an 8-inch line. He will check the plans.

The office staff told Mr. Sharpin that the center has been using a large amount of water during the last few weeks. Mr. Valovcin will investigate the large water usage.

Deer Run Development – 379 Underwood Street - Status

Planning Board will discuss the Deer Run development on January 8, 2009. The BWC needs to send their comments to the Planning Board by January 8, 2009. Our consultants ran a simulation model at the development at 750 gallons per minute. There was a minimal drop in pressure in the system. It would have to be run up to 1000 gallons per minute to get it down close to zero. There was no negative pressure found in the immediate area.

Mr. Sharpin asked whether the BWC wants to solicit improvements.

Mr. Valovcin reminded the board that the water pressure in the street is about 15psi (minimum is 20psi). The town is unable to provide sufficient water pressure in the street. The board reviewed the site plans with Mr. Valovcin and Mr. Sharpin. Mr. Valovcin stated that the hydrant located 170 feet down the driveway was useless because there is a hydrant within 20 feet of the beginning of the drive. He and Mr. Sharpin want it to be located at the **end** of the drive. The board noted that there was a central booster station for the houses on the site plans.

The board agreed to the following:

- Individual booster pumps for each house (rather than central booster station)
- Hydrant placed at END of the drive in order to flush the system
- New ductile pipes installed from the Oak Street Standpipe to the end of the drive

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion for Mr. Sharpin to write a letter to the Planning Board that states that the Board of Water Commissioners want the following three items :
Individual booster pumps for each house
Hydrant placed at END of the drive
New ductile pipes installed from the Oak Street Standpipe to the end of the drive”**

Mr. Weise seconded the motion.

Mr. Ferreira, Mr. Weise, and Mr. Adams voted in favor of the motion.

Make-Up Bill - Status

The latest quarterly bill is \$693,770.00 which is due February 1, 2009.

Water Quality Complaints

None have been received recently. Michael Schofield of Norfolk Street had been scheduled for tonight but informed Mr. Sharpin that he would not be able to attend.

Letter to Non-Responsive Residents

Mr. Valovcin reported that eight to ten letters need to be sent out to residents who have not responded to the department's request to install MTUs and new meters. They will be sent certified, return-receipt. The board will obtain a court order to gain access to the properties for the installations.

Hydrant Flushing – Status

Mr. Valovcin reported that the department has ceased hydrant flushing.

Permanent Chlorination Systems – Status

The current chlorination system is temporary.

Ali Parand has offered to make plans for a permanent chlorination system.

Costs are \$10,000.00 per well site.

The department has money committed for the project.

It does not have to go out to bid.

Mr. Sharpin has hired an engineer to develop the plans.

The Department will be doing the work internally which will save money.

Well #4 – Status

The well is not pumping yet.

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The department is installing improvements (mixer, feedports) that are needed. Work should begin around the first of the year 2009.

Well #6 – Status

Ali Parand will come to Well #6 to verify that the department has everything needed to start pumping.

Kuniholm Booster Station and Cedar Street Booster Station – Status

Mr. Sharpin reported that \$75,000.00 has been set aside for Kuniholm Booster Station and \$85,000.00 for Cedar Street Booster Station. It will cost about \$200,000.00 for each station.

Mr. Valovcin reported that Ali Parand has proposed an alternative to the booster station at Kuniholm:

The Water Department purchase five booster pumps for the 3-6 buildings
This would insure sufficient water pressure for the tenants
No more maintenance – the department would not maintain the pumps

There is a separate booster station for a fire line for fire protection.

Another option would involve the water tank at Jennings Street. A booster station would be designed so that it would go to the tank. Five hundred feet of water pipe would have to be installed (costly), but it would benefit the water pressure somewhat in the nearby neighborhoods. A booster pump may still need to be installed for water pressure.

Mr. Ferreira proposed a system of separating all of the systems from the standpipe to resolve pressure issues.

Mr. Sharpin proposed combining the Kuniholm and Cedar Street Booster Station projects to fix the Cedar Street one for \$170,000.00. The department would have to ask for more money to repair the Kuniholm booster station. A transfer of money would be required.

The board then reviewed the pluses and minuses of the Enterprise Fund for the Water Department. The current economic climate adversely affects the profitability of the Fund for the department.

Minutes Review

The minutes of September 10, 2008 were reviewed.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to accept the minutes of September 10, 2008 as written”**

Mr. Weise seconded the motion.

Mr. Ferreira, Mr. Weise, and Mr. Adams voted in favor of the motion.

The minutes of September 18, 2008 were reviewed.
Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to accept the minutes of September 18, 2008 as written”**

Mr. Weise seconded the motion.

Mr. Weise, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Ferreira voted in favor of the motion.

The minutes of November 24, 2008 were reviewed.
Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to accept the minutes of November 24, 2008 as written”**

Mr. Weise seconded the motion.

Mr. Adams, Mr. Ferreira, and Mr. Weise voted in favor of the motion.

Invoices and Change Orders

Invoices and change orders were signed by the board.

Schedule for Upcoming Board of Water Commissioners

The next BWC meeting will be held on Monday, December 22, 2008.
The board will meet with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, January 5, 2009.
The BWC will meet on Wednesday, January 7, 2009.

Mr. Weise made a motion: **“Motion to adjourn”**
Mr. Adams seconded the motion.
Mr. Adams, Mr. Ferreira, and Mr. Weise voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50pm.

Next BWC meeting – Monday, December 22, 2008 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Keating
Clerk

Approved 4/6/09 as written