

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 5, 2010
MEETING ROOM 014**

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

Meeting began at 6:30pm.

Pat Duffey, Board of Health member, arrived at 6:30pm.

Dave Keating arrived at 6:30pm.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS REVIEW

The board reviewed five ZBA applications and found no water issues.

CUTLER HEIGHTS

The board has decided to retain the current water rate rules regarding buildings of four or more units. Cutler Heights developers had asked for a change in the rules for their development.

Mr. Sharpin will inform Jonathan Juhl, the developer, of the board's ruling and also to tell him that the board plans to have a Water Rate review this calendar year and will include this issue.

Mr. Sharpin has requested an opinion of Bill Mayer, Town Counsel, in December regarding this issue, but Mr. Mayer has not yet responded.

He also requested an opinion of Chris Woodcock who advises and sets water rates, but also has not received a response from him yet.

MOUNT HOLLIS TANK – ACCESS ROAD

Mr. Sharpin is still waiting to hear from Joseph Antonellis, Special Town Counsel, regarding the access road to the Mt. Hollis tank on Fairlane Way.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STUDY GROUP

Mr. Ferreira is a member of the new DPW Study Group. He gave a status update to the Board.

The group asked "what is the group's charge?" They also asked for a fifth member. They have been asked to come up with the pros and cons and then present these at the May Town Meeting. Townspeople would be asked to vote if they want a Department of Public Works to be created or not.

The DPW would include a group of engineers who would help other departments as well. The study group plans to determine how the Highway Department "pyramid" meshes with the Water Department "pyramid". Are there any savings?

The group also plans to contact other towns who have converted to Department of Public Works.

Ms Duffey asked how each member of the board felt about the proposal to combine the two departments. Each commissioner spoke about plusses and minuses involved.

CELLULAR ANTENNAE BID

Mr. Sharpin read through the leases for the Cellular Antenna bids. Paul LeBeau is contacting the two companies who placed bids. Mr. Adams wants to ask at the May Town Meeting for a portion of the rental revenue.

NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE

Two articles appeared in December New York Times magazine that referenced Holliston Water Department.

Mr. Sharpin will investigate a company that removes manganese and iron from water.

DEP NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

The board has not received a response from the DEP regarding the submitted Action Plan.

Jon Beekman and Kirsten Ryan of SEA will schedule a meeting with Paul Anderson, head of the DEP Water Supply Group. He can give a waiver for the situation at Well #2. Mr. Sharpin hopes to schedule a meeting with Muriel Stone of the DEP within the next few weeks.

WATER LIENS

Liens can only be placed on ACTUAL tax bills, not ESTIMATED tax bills.

There are 248 properties accounting for \$119,000.00 that will go on lien for the last fiscal year. Since the tax rate has not yet been finalized by the state, the state has given the town permission to delay the mailing of tax bills for the quarter ending December 31, 2009.

The board decided to delay sending the last quarter's bills until the end of the month in the hope that the actual tax bill will be sent by January 27, 2010.

Mr. Ferreira made a motion: **“Motion that we delay billing and provide information to the Town Treasurer on outstanding balances so that a lien can be established for the third and fourth quarter”**

Mr. Adams seconded the motion.

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

IRON AND MANGANESE

Water in the Well #4 area is high in manganese while water in the Well #6 area is high in iron. Well #1 is also high in manganese.

The board reviewed the report on the wells.

Paul LeBeau arrived at 7:15pm.

Mr. LeBeau reported that he has sent the draft contracts to the Cellular Antennae bid winners.

Mr. LeBeau left at 7:18pm.

The board discussed the possible ramifications of Fafard Development's change to thousands of acres in the Well #6 area.

The testing of water at Well #7 was discussed.

WELL #4 – STATUS

A report from SEA was reviewed. Mr. Valovcin reported that Well #4 is currently "running to waste."

The board discussed the permitting process – how long will it take?

Mr. Ferreira suggested asking the DEP for approval for the creating a well that is 250 feet from Well #4. He listed the following timetable for that well:

- Start the process

- Run it for a year

- If it runs okay for a year, then upgrade the Treatment Plant at Well #4.

Mr. Keating inquired about possible conservation issues with the Conservation Commission which the board discussed.

WELL #7 – STATUS

The board reviewed the memo from SEA regarding the history of the development of Well #7. Mr. Sharpin will write a letter on the status of Holliston's water system. Mr. Adams offered to edit his letter before February 20, 2010.

The board plans to send the letter and history to the Selectmen with a request to contact State Senators and Senators about Well #7's status.

REPORTS -STATUS

The Emergency Response Report has been completed.

The Annual Town Report for the calendar year is due January 15, 2010.

The Annual Statistical Report to the DEP is due March 2010.

WATER RATES

Mr. Sharpin expects that a 5% rate increase should be expected this Spring. He distributed the Capital Projects report which the board reviewed.

Ms Duffey left at 8:20pm.

Mr. Adams suggested that Chris Woodcock should be contacted related to the determination of water rates.

He also suggested contacting Mike Nagle, former Water Commissioner.

ALL BOARDS MEETING = PLANNING

The board plans to speak at the “All Boards Meeting” that is not yet scheduled. Hand-outs will be needed for the meeting.

The board would like to offer a tour of all Water Department facilities to the Finance Committee.

SYSTEM OPERATOR POSITION

After review, the list of candidates has been reduced to 5-6 applications. Mr. Valovcin and Mr. Sharpin plan to make a final decision by early next week. The board discussed the training estimates since the new employee will be working alone on Saturdays.

EMPLOYEE PROBATION

The board discussed the probation status of a department employee. Mr. Sharpin plans to meet with the employee to discuss current status.

MINUTES REVIEW

The minutes of December 2, 2009 were reviewed at the meeting.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2009 as written”**

Mr. Ferreira seconded the motion.

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

The minutes of December 15, 2009 were reviewed at the meeting.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to accept the minutes of December 15, 2009 as written”**

Mr. Weise seconded the motion.

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

The minutes of November 17, 2009 were reviewed at the meeting.

Mr. Adams made a motion: **“Motion to accept the minutes of November 17, 2009
as amended”**

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 at the meeting.

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

Mr. Ferreira seconded the motion.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Next BWC meeting – Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Keating
Clerk

Approved 1/13/10 as written

Board of Water Commissioners Meeting

January 5, 2010

(Meeting to start at 6:30 PM in Room #014)

- **Public Comments - (6:30- 6:40)**
- **ZBA Review for Variances-(6:40-6:45)**
- **Cutler Heights – (6:45-6:50)**
- **DPW Study-Dennis Ferreira – (6:50-6:55)**
- **Cellular Antenna Proposals – Status - (6:55-7:00)**
- **New York Times Article- (7:00-7:10)**
- **DEP Notice of Determination-Status- (7:10-7:15)**
 - *Well #2-Action Plan with DEP
- **Water Liens-Paul LeBeau-(7:15-7:20)**
- **Iron and Manganese-Holliston Water Supply – (7:20-7:30)**
- **Well #4 – status - (7:30-7:45)**
 - *SEA Report on Test Wells
 - *Additional Test Well-action plan
 - *Beaver Dam – CC WPA Form 3 status
- **Well #6 – status – (7:45-7:50)**
- **Well #7-status-(7:50-8:00)**
- **Reports- (8:00-8:10)**
 - *Well #7 DEP Annual Monitoring Report
 - *Stage 2 DBPR Report to EPA
 - *Emergency Response Plan Update to DEP
 - *Annual Town Report to Holliston – due Jan 15th
 - *Annual Statistical Report to DEP – due March 2010
- **Water Rates – (8:10-8:30)**
- **All Boards Meeting Planning – January 2010-(8:30-9:00)**
- **Water Department Activities – (9:00-9:15)**
 - *Operator Position-review of submittals
 - *Finance Committee tour
- **Invoices and Minutes – (9:15-9:30)**
- **Adjourn –(9:30)**

Next BWC Meeting – January 20, 2010 @ 6:30PM @ Town Hall