

Dighton Water District
192 Williams Street
North Dighton, MA 02764

Edward Swartz
Jeffery Cloonan
Sue Medeiros

COMMISSIONERS

Tina Bragga
TREASURER

THE FOLLOWING MEETING WAS BOTH AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDED

Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.
Water District Headquarters

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Ed Swartz, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 9, 2014.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEETING WITH SCHEDULED GUESTS:

The Abrahams Group – Mark Abraham & Elizabeth Zaleski
Update was not need, not in attendance.

Outstanding Water Bill

Owners of the property located at 2274 Winthrop Street were in attendance to address their outstanding water bill. Clerk/Treasurer Tina Bragga updated the board that prior to 2012 there was no usage at this property. In June of 2012 there was a large jump in the usage of 853,000 gallons and since this time there has been no usage. Clerk of the board Jeff Cloonan asked if the meter was investigated. The homeowner stated the District did a flow test on the meter. Homeowner also stated that they had shut the water off inside the house. Employee of the Water District, Gary Willette, was present and told the board he had verified the reading on the meter and check the meter at the time of the high usage. Gary stated the meter was in good condition. The Board reviewed the minutes from the meeting dated November 13, 2012 at which the homeowner had original attended in regards to the water usage at the property. The homeowner stated that their electric bill had not increased during this period of high usage which they feel would have increased due to a pump on the septic system. Jeff Cloonan feels the meter is working properly. Ed Swartz stated that somehow the water was used and needs to be accounted for. The Board would like to have the test results from the meter and speak to the ACO (Administrative Compliance Officer) to get more details. Ed told the homeowners the Board will come to some agreement on how this will be worked out. The Board needs more information to come to a determination and would like the homeowner to attend the January meeting. Ed stated that no determination has been made by the Board, currently the bill still sits in the homeowners name and it is still their responsibility.

Joe Ferreira – Elm Street Not in attendance

APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS:

Chairman Ed Swartz entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday November 18, 2014 and the Water Districts Tax Classification hearing of December 3, 2014. Commissioner Sue Medeiros, so moved, Commissioner Jeff Cloonan seconded the motion, all were in favor. Ed asked for a motion to accept the executive session minutes for November 18th but not release, Sue so moved, Jeff seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE:

Ed stated the only correspondence was legal.

Ed stated that the District would be moving some of the bank accounts to Mechanic's Bank and in the future possible the Stabilization accounts to Bay Coast Bank. Also, the employees of the District were surveyed on direct deposit, half were interested. Ed stated we would wait until the District hires a new accounting employee for the office then start the change to direct deposit.

FINANCIAL CONDITION:

Ed read the financial conditions, attached. Ed asked for a motion to accept the financial conditions, Sue so moved, Jeff seconded, motion passed.

Ed asked for a motion to approve the warrants, Sue so moved, Jeff seconded, motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Superintendent Greg Olsen reported since the November 3rd meeting the District has had 4 main breaks, Main Street, Karen Road, Walker at 44 and 44 at the end.

Greg stated that he received updated quotes for the tank mixer project. What he is going to do is bid for the Elm Street tank and add alternate of Williams Street if we have enough money. Greg thinks we will be about \$10,000.00 short from the money approved at the May 22nd Annual meeting. Bids will be opened for the tank mixers on January 6, 2015, the engineers will take the results and prepare a recommendation to be presented at the January Board meeting. Greg stated to the board the project would begin about 4 weeks after the bid is awarded. Ed suggested if the bids came in \$8,000.00 or \$10,000.00 over for both mixers to ask if the winning bidder would hold the price on the second tank until the District could hold a Special District meeting on the same night as the Annual District meeting in May.

Greg stated he had purchased 5 laptop computers for \$15.00 a piece from the Surplus Property account for the state of Massachusetts. Donnie installed software for reading prints on three of the laptops.

Greg reported that the vacuum system that runs Cedar #3 has not been maintained properly. It will cost between \$3,000.00 and \$3,500.00 to repair the vacuums. Greg has received a proposal for the work. Also, at the same time, just on that well, they put in vacuum mercury switches. State of Massachusetts wants us to remove all mercury from the well field as soon as we can, so at the same time they are repairing the alternator they are going to pull the four mercury switches and replace them.

Greg mentioned he had discussed with Chairman Swartz about replacing water main with Capital Improvement funds. Greg did some rough numbers for Segregansett Park, it's 2,800 feet long. The cost of installing 6 inch ductile pipe, not including the price of the pipe is roughly \$98,000.00. This would bring the project to over \$200,000.00.

The hydraulic model done by Aecom has been given to Tata & Howard who has just emailed Greg a report. Using the hydraulic model will tell us why there is low pressure, why there's low flow. Tata & Howard will discuss with the Board at the January meeting. Ed would also like to discuss grants for infrastructure.

Pavers will be in on Wednesday December 10th. Jeff Cloonan asked if the District could purchase a whacker. Greg stated it does no good because the District does not have the equipment to dig the hole.

Greg would like to put gutters on the building at 527 Somerset Avenue, rain is coming into the building. Board stated this would have to come out of System Maintenance.

Next Greg reported on the propane heaters at the stations. These heaters are from 1965, Propane Plus has put them out of service three times for being over on carbon monoxide levels. Two have been shut off and Greg has converted to electric heaters that were previously installed. Greg does not want to switch to electricity then have electric prices increase. Greg noted that there is no emergency power at the station, if the power goes out the electric heat goes. We should possibly look at replacing propane heaters in the stations, propane heaters average about \$200.00 apiece.

Still has not received a response to setup a meeting with the Agricultural School. The Agricultural School is the only area of the distribution system that has transite pipe. You need special certified people in the District to work on or oversee work done on transite pipe. We need to determine if the schools portion of pipe is not the District's responsibility. Greg and Kevin will be going to school in January to become certified. Greg asked the Board if they would like to send a letter to the school. The Board request Tina Bragga, Clerk/Treasurer to send the school a letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Greg drafted a meter replacement letter that he would like to send out with the next water billing or separately to 50 residences. Ed suggested a separate mailing with the letter stating to contact the District within 10 days. Greg stated that he will not be able to replace all meters during normal District work hours. The Board agreed to have employees work a Saturday to help expedite the meter replacement program.

OLD BUSINESS:

South Dighton Fire Station Meter – Update from meeting with Chief Roderick's on September 16, 2014 in regards to the added metering of water to fill the fire trucks. Chief Roderick's was concerned he would be over budget with the added usage charge. Tina presented the board with the current usage of the South Dighton Fire Station which is consistent with previous year's usage. Chief Roderick's will be notified.

Intermunicipal Agreement – Will schedule meeting after the first of the year.

GIS Mapping – Greg reported that Prime Operator, Dorian Jefferson, had received a quote from a company for GIS mapping (Geographic Information System). The company was to take the maps created by the District and upload them so that the town could use them. At the Boards request Dorian spoke with the Dighton Planning Board who is also working on GIS mapping. Where the maps are going to be used by the town, the secretary of the Planning Board at no cost to the District will do the same as the GIS people were going to do. The Board agreed to use the Planning Board for GIS mapping.

Policy Changes – Greg updated the Board on his policy changes. The District will hold a Public Hearing on December 18, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at the Dighton Town Hall, upper level. Public Hearing will be posted in the Taunton Gazette, at District Headquarters, the Town Hall and Post Offices.

District Accountant/Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Position – Position has been posted in the Taunton Gazette on Sunday, December 7th. Board will review resumes in January.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Pines Subdivision – Distribution of Credit – Ed stated that The Pines subdivision has a credit of \$41,000.00 carried over from the previous owners. The Pines has requested how the District would distribute this credit. The Board agreed to a 50/50 split on fees, the owner will pay for half of all fees per lot and half will go against the \$41,000.00 credit until the credit is depleted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be January 20, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC INPUT: Ed wishes everyone Happy Holidays

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Ed Swartz made a motion to adjourn at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Bragga
District Clerk

Those in Attendance:

Edward Swartz
Jeffrey Cloonan

Sue Medeiros
Tina Bragga

Greg Olsen
Jim Ready

Chairman Ed Swartz

Clerk Jeff Cloonan

Commissioner Sue Medeiros