

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

January 8, 2008

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Roger F. Blanchette, Board member Jonathan F. Henry and Town Administrator Police Department. Also present were Lee Craver, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Ruth Thompson of *The Sentinel*, Andrea Smith of the *Tri-Town Observer*, Mark Rasmussen and Korrin Petersen of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, Carol Sanz and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Henry moved the minutes of November 20, December 4 and December 18, 2007; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Blanchette announced that Mr. Jeffrey will not be present at this evening's meeting.

The Board met with Mr. Rasmussen and Ms. Petersen, who presented a report on the declining health of Buzzards Bay. Mr. Rasmussen reported that land conservation has become a more important part of the Coalition's work, as it affects water quality. Mr. Rasmussen explained that the only area municipality which has shown improvement is New Bedford, because of its new sewage treatment plant. Mr. Rasmussen said that bacteria have become a problem, along with nitrogen and the loss of wetlands, although nitrogen continues to drive most of the problems. Mr. Rasmussen informed the Board that Marion's trouble spots are the inner harbor, Sprague's Cove and Aucoot Cove. Mr. Rasmussen listed septic systems and fertilizer as being the main sources of pollution.

Mr. Blanchette pointed out that the Town had installed public sewer all the way down Converse Road and Dexter Beach in 2007. Mr. Rasmussen explained that it takes a several years to see an improvement in the water quality after the installation of a public sewer, as the groundwater migrates.

Ms. Petersen thanked the Town for its support of the Oil Spill Prevention Act and noted that every barge must now have a tug escort in Buzzards Bay.

Mr. Henry asked if there was any effort being made to legislate the use of fertilizers in proximity to the ocean. Mr. Rasmussen said that this would be almost impossible to police and enforce, although the Town of Falmouth is launching a lawn fertilizer campaign. Mr. Rasmussen said that he would forward information on this program to the Town.

Mr. Rasmussen explained that the Mass. Estuaries Project is designed to give information on how much nitrogen to remove; e.g., how many lawns, sewers, storm drains, etc. Mr. Rasmussen said that, five years ago, the State said offered to match funding for removal of the nitrogen and, to date, all the area towns have signed on, with the exception of Marion, Mattapoissett and Wareham. Mr. Rasmussen said that the study

costs \$150,000 and is run from UMass Dartmouth by the Mass. Estuaries Project and takes from three to four years. Mr. Blanchette said that the Town of Marion has already taken on a huge project with the sewer extensions. Mr. Blanchette said that limiting lawn fertilizers was an inexpensive way to improve water quality and that the Town is planning on a stormwater remediation project at Old Landing. Mr. Blanchette said that he didn't know where the Town could find another \$150,000, as the 2009 budget is already stressed. Mr. Blanchette hoped that grant money could be used. Mr. Rasmussen suggested the Town pursue private money for this purpose and noted that Dartmouth, even with its huge budget difficulties, had funded the Estuaries Project. Mr. Rasmussen suggested the Town consider working with its Board of Health to regulate septic systems to require nitrogen removal. Mr. Blanchette noted that Wareham had had such a proposal narrowly defeated last year—Marion may consider placing an Article on the next Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Henry moved a one-day wine/malt license for the Music Hall on January 10, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried.

The Board then reviewed various requests for abatements on water/sewer bills. The first, McPeck, service #68, requested that basic charges be abated because it is a seasonal residence. The Department of Public Works recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for McPeck; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. & Mrs. Fredericks, service #2307, requested an abatement because of a leak in a waterline to their dock; the Department of Public Works recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Fredericks; the motion was seconded and carried.

Grota, service #2620, requested an abatement for a meter reading fee because the meter reading card had not been returned; the Department of Public Works recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Grota; the motion was seconded and carried.

Gray, service #1563, requested an abatement because of an increase in consumption, possibly related to a leak or the summer drought; the Department of Public Works recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Gray; the motion was seconded and carried.

Grainger, service #1472, requested an abatement because of unexplained high consumption; the Department of Public Works is of the opinion that there may be a leak in the irrigation system and recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Grainger; the motion was seconded and carried.

Finnie, service #1795 and DiMaggio, service #2892, requested abatements on irrigation use, because the water did not enter the Town's sewage treatment plant; the Department of Public Works' policy is to encourage conservation by charging the fee and recommended the requests be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendations of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatements requests for Finnie and DiMaggio; the motion was seconded and carried.

Marilynn Keith, service #725, requested an abatement due to increased consumption; the Department of Public Works recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Keith; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mark Abdelnour, service #700, requested an abatement due to leaks in the water system; the Department of Public Works recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Abdelnour; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. and Mrs. Lerman, water service #2705, request an abatement due to fluctuating consumption records; the Department of Public Works extensively researched the account, determined that the water meter had been stopped or running backwards, replaced the meter and recommended the request be denied.

Mr. Henry moved to accept the recommendation of the Department of Public Works and deny the abatement request for Lerman; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Dawson requested guidance from the Board regarding the police station and whether it should be pursued as a capital project for the Spring. Mr. Blanchette suggested the committee take another look at the project and present a police station that is less expensive and "more in tune with the needs of our Town." Mr. Henry suggested the committee discuss this matter before the Board discusses it at a meeting.

Mr. Dawson presented three CDM proposals for phosphorus removal, plant loading/remaining capacity and an infiltration and inflow remediation project in the Village. Mr. Dawson did not request a vote on the contract at this time, only that the

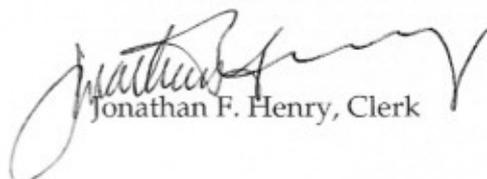
Board consider these projects for the next regular meeting. Mr. Blanchette noted that all three contracts are with CDM and suggested that the Town request quotes from other engineering companies. Mr. Henry suggested the Town request a value engineering assessment. Mr. Dawson noted that, when he became Town Administrator, it was relayed to him that Tata & Howard were the Town's water consulting engineers and Camp Dresser & McKee were the Town's sewer consulting engineers—but that doesn't mean that, from time to time the Town shouldn't reconsider this selection. Mr. Henry recalled that the infiltration and inflow project is required by the Department of Environmental Protection's administrative consent order and the Town must take on this project. Mr. Dawson agreed that CDM has the data and that this situation is why the legislature exempted engineers and other professional companies from the 30B process, but good business practice must be followed nevertheless. Mr. Dawson indicated that companies expect you to get other quotations to have an opportunity to negotiate with the town. Mr. Dawson said that, in the short term, it makes sense to work with CDM, particularly on the sewage treatment plant and infiltration and inflow, as time is of the essence when dealing with the sewage treatment plant. It was agreed to discuss this matter at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Henry moved to approve a transfer from the Music Hall endowment fund for the replacement of the stage masking (drapes); the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Henry moved to sign the presidential preference primary warrant as presented; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Henry moved to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan F. Henry, Clerk

Date approved: 1/22/08