

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
July 7, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephen Cushing, Chairman
Jonathan Henry
Jonathan Dickerson

ALSO PRESENT: Paul Dawson, Town Administrator
John O'Rourke
Rob Zora
Christina Bascom
Barbara Gee
Margot Stone
Ernest Weber
Margaret Vulgaris
Lee Vulgaris
Jennifer Francis
Bill Saltonstall
Eileen Marum
John Garcia (Standard Times)
Matthew Bernat (Sippican Week)
Mary Lou Newell (Wanderer)
Other members of the audience that did not sign in
Debra Paiva, secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the police station conference room. Mr. Cushing announced that the meeting would be video recorded by ORCTV and audio recorded by Town of Marion staff and by Standard Times staff. A list of the materials reviewed at the meeting will be attached to these minutes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2015, June 9, 2015, June 11, 2015, June 16, 2015, June 29, 2015

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to move the minutes. VOTE: 3-0-0

APPOINTMENTS

7:05 p.m. Al Caron – Discussion regarding plowing of private roads

Mr. Caron was present to follow up on the Town Meeting vote approving snow and ice removal for private roads and asked what needs to be done at this point. Mr. Dawson provided the following information:

- Department of Public Works staff will be assessing the private roads in town to determine that the plow trucks will be able to enter and exit them safely.
- When the assessment is done the findings will be published in a local newspaper and on the Town website to allow the roads to be brought up to standard before winter; the criteria for repairs will be provided.
- The funds to pay for the snow removal will be requested at Special Town Meeting in late October or early November.

- State statute requires that the public is allowed to traverse over private roads receiving snow removal services from the Town.
- While this is an “opt in” service, all private roads will be assessed unless the owners specify that they do not want their road plowed by the Town.

Mr. Dawson requested that, in order to avoid an unnecessary and unwanted assessment, any homeowner associations or private road owners who know that they do not want to participate in this service notify the Town through the Board of Selectmen.

7:20 p.m. Music Hall Advisory Committee (MHAC)

Committee members Christina Bascom and Margot Stone were present for this discussion. At their last meeting the selectmen received a request from the MHAC to use \$10,000 from the Music Hall Restoration Fund for an upcoming event celebrating the life of Elizabeth Taber and the Music Hall’s 125th anniversary. Mr. Cushing asked if the money would be refunded and was told it could be; the committee is planning to sell 450 tickets for \$20 each.

Mr. Dickerson said that he would like to see any profit to go back to the Town; Mr. Dawson explained that state law requires that the receipts go into the general fund and a town meeting vote to transfer the money to the restoration fund might be required. The Music Hall Restoration Fund currently has a balance of \$95,000 and it receives \$13,000 each year from the endowment.

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to approve the request that \$10,000 be taken from the Restoration Fund and used for the Gala. VOTE: 3-0-0

Also discussed tonight was a request for \$10,000 for landscaping and to furnish the reading room. The MHAC recommended spending \$5000 - \$7000 to furnish the reading room and \$5,000 for landscaping; the estimated cost to furnish the reading room estimate is \$10,000 – \$12,000. In August the Marion Council on Aging will begin senior programs at the Music Hall and the Friends of the Council on Aging has donated \$5,000 to use toward the cost of reading room furniture. The building is scheduled to be repointed in the near future so the landscaping will not begin until September. Mr. Dawson said he recently met with members of the COA and learned of the senior drop in center one day a week and told the selectmen that this is part of a much larger program.

Mr. Dickerson explained that while the selectmen appreciate a gift to the Town and they are required to vote to accept it.

David Pierce asked if the furniture would interfere with committee use of the reading room and was told the plan includes a conference table that would seat 10 - 12 people.

Mrs. Bascom and Mrs. Stone were advised that the selectmen would consider the request as an action item at their August 4 meeting.

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to graciously accept the \$5000 donation from the Friends of the Council on Aging. VOTE: 3-0-0

7:30 p.m. Public comment – Electricity aggregation program

Mr. Dawson explained that tonight’s public comment opportunity is the final step before submitting to the DPU the petition for approval of the municipal aggregation plan. The two week period to submit written comments was June 17 to July 2 and the deadline to offer oral comment is tonight. The aggregation documents have been available for viewing on the Town website and also at Town Hall in the Selectmen’s office. John O’Rourke of Good Energy was present to answer questions. The discussion included the following:

The program will allow Marion residents and residents of other towns to purchase electricity at a reduced rate through a competitive bidding process

Contracts can be for as long as three years but are typically for two years, and the Town can decide what the length of the contract will be

The Board of Selectmen will have discretion to determine how much renewable green energy can be obtained through the process

Ted North, 62 Cove Circle, asked if the program is “opt out” and was told yes. He asked if the Town will participate in the program and was told no, it is considered a commercial user of power. The program is available to residential and small business users paying the base rate, not to commercial users.

David Pierce, chairman of the Energy Management Committee, explained that the program is limited to Eversource customers paying a base rate; customers of a private supplier will not be included in the program.

John O’Rourke of Good Energy, the firm that will be negotiating the rate, provided the following information:

24 communities (215,000 households) have joined the aggregate

The objective of the program is to lower rates and the savings will probably be 10% - 15%

Winter rates are expected to be close to last year’s

The contract rate will be a fixed rate for the term of the agreement

Each town can choose the length of their agreement term up to a maximum of three years, but two year contracts seem to be the best

Mr. Pierce explained that electric rates shift seasonally from summer to winter rates, electric bills include power production costs and transportation costs, and the transportation cost remains fixed.

Ted North asked if the 10% -15% savings would be limited to the power production cost segment of bill and was told yes.

Ernest Weber, 10 Nokomis Road, asked how many rates will be negotiated and was told two (commercial and residential). He asked if a seasonal resident would be allowed to opt in after the electricity is turned off in the fall and was told probably not, the program is primarily for year round residents.

When audience members had no further comments or questions, it was moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to close the public comment period. VOTE: 3-0-0

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to submit the appropriate documentation to the Department of Public Utilities for regulatory approval. VOTE: 3-0-0

7:45 p.m. Discussion regarding parking on South Street

Residents of South Street were notified by mail of tonight’s discussion.

Mr. Dawson explained that the discussion is in response to concerns raised by the Fire Department and residents regarding the lack of emergency vehicle access when cars are parked on both sides of South Street. After meetings with Lt. Garcia and Mr. Zora, Mr. Dawson’s initial recommendation was to limit parking to one side of South Street. However, Chief Miller has submitted another option that would limit commercial vehicle and trailer parking to 30 minutes from June 15 to September 15 to one (south) side of the road. Parking of commercial vehicles would be prohibited on the north side of the road.

Mr. Cushing asked why the ban would be limited to the summer months and Mr. Zora explained that most construction projects are done during good weather, the yacht club has events during the summer months, and it’s not as much of a problem during the winter months.

Mr. Vulgaris requested that parking of all vehicles be restricted to one side of the road; the other residents in the room agreed with Mr. Vulgaris’ request.

After discussion, Mr. Cushing asked if the residents were in agreement that all parking should be restricted on the south side of the road.

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to restrict parking of all vehicles on the south side of South Street from Water Street to Pleasant Street. Parking will be allowed on the north side only of the road. VOTE: 3-0-0

ACTION ITEMS

Water commitment – Quarterly water & sewer billing - \$782,891.86 (6/15/15)

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to move the commitment. VOTE: 3-0-0

Water commitment – Second bill run - \$25,982 (6/15/15)

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to move the commitment. VOTE: 3-0-0

Reappointments

A list dated July 7, 2015 was reviewed.

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to move the reappointments. VOTE: 3-0-0

Credit memorandum – 44 Cranberry Way - \$14.24 (6/19/15)

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to move the credit memorandum. VOTE: 3-0-0

Water commitment – Final readings - \$679.20 (6/25/15)

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to move the commitment. VOTE: 3-0-0

Request for appointment to ZBA – Kathleen Mahoney

This request was carried over from a previous meeting. ZBA members have met with the applicant and the chairman has submitted a memo recommending the appointment.

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to move the appointment. VOTE: 3-0-0

Water/sewer abatement request – 29 Hastings Road

An application requesting an abatement of sewer charges was reviewed and discussed. Review of the information revealed the following:

- The increase in water consumption was caused by a burst pipe when the heating system in the home failed.
- The home was unoccupied when the leak occurred.
- The water was not consciously used and did not enter the sewer system.
- The Department of Public Works recommended the granting of an abatement of the sewer charges of \$2580.65.

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to abate the sewer charges. VOTE: 3-0-0

Water commitment – Final reading - \$64.92 (7/1/15)

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to move the commitment. VOTE: 3-0-0

Water commitment – Final reading - \$349.02 (7/1/15)

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to move the commitment. VOTE: 3-0-0

Authorize Town Administrator to execute contract for NPDES permit support agreement

Mr. Dawson explained that the said the contract, which is not to exceed \$395,000, is with CDM Smith for work associated with the NPDES permit, and the funds were approved at Town Meeting.

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the contract. VOTE: 3-0-0

1 day alcohol license – New Bedford Art Museum/Art Works! Annual Garden Party – 214 Delano Road, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., July 17, 2015

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Henry to move the license. VOTE: 3-0-0

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Update – Great Hill tank construction

Mr. Dawson provided an update of the activities completed at the Great Hill Water Tank construction project between June 20, 2015 and July 2, 2015. A site visit has been scheduled for selectmen to attend on Thursday morning.

Ethics training

Mr. Dawson and the Rochester and Mattapoisett Town Administrators have been working with the State Ethics Commission to schedule an ethics training course. The Ethics Commission has indicated that they want to do the training but a guaranteed number of attendees is required in order for them to send trainers. A date had been scheduled but the Ethics Commission was having some budget issues and were waiting for approval of their training budget. The course will probably be in the fall, when better attendance is expected, but it all depends on the Ethics Commission’s training budget. Mr. Dickerson recommended that this be required for all appointed boards. He also recommended a training on the open meeting law; Mr. Dawson said he would work on that with Attorney Witten and he is working on a harassment training with the Town’s insurance agent.

Employee Appreciation event

The appreciation events for employees and committee members will be on Thursday, August 13.

Master Plan Forum

Mr. Dawson encouraged the selectmen and community members to attend the Master Plan Forum scheduled for August 1, at 9:00 a.m. at the Music Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE

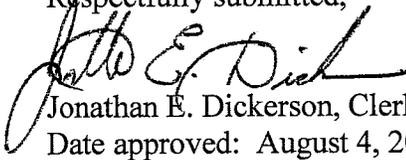
The following correspondence items were briefly discussed:

- #5 – Resignation from Music Hall Advisory Committee – Phyllis Washburn
- #6 – Resignation from Pathways Committee – Jeff Oakes

Mr. Dickerson thanked the members of the Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Harbormaster crew, and Recreation staff for helping to make the Fourth of July events a success.

At 8:38 p.m. the Board voted to adjourn and enter into Executive Session for strategy for negotiations with non-Union personnel and strategy related to collective bargaining. The Board will not be returning to regular session. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,


 Jonathan E. Dickerson, Clerk
 Date approved: August 4, 2015

RECEIVED
 TOWN CLERK OF MARION, MA
 2015 AUG -5 - 11:42

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – July 7, 2015**

MEETING MINUTES – June 4, 2015, June 9, 2015, June 11, 2015, June 16, 2015, June 29, 2015

Energy aggregation program documents

Memo from Chief Miller regarding parking on South Street

Water commitment – Quarterly water & sewer billing -\$782,891.86 (6/15/15)

Water commitment – Second bill run - \$25,928 (6/15/15)

Reappointments list dated 7/7/15

Credit memorandum – 44 Cranberry Way - \$14.24 (6/19/15)

Water commitment – Final readings - \$679.20 (6/25/15)

Request for appointment to ZBA – Kathleen Mahoney

Water/sewer abatement request – 29 Hastings Road

Music Hall Advisory Committee recommendation for up-front expenses – October 2015 event

Water commitment – Final reading - \$64.92 (7/1/15)

Water commitment – Final reading - \$349.02 (7/1/15)

NPDES permit support agreement

1 day alcohol license – New Bedford Art Museum/Art Works! Annual Garden Party – 214 Delano Road, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., July 17, 2015

Memo providing update of Great Hill tank construction

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from SRPEDD regarding Southeastern Mass. Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)

ZBA request for comments – 185 Wareham Street

ZBA request for comments – 16 Cottage Street

ZBA request for comments – off Front Street (Baywatch Realty Trust)

Resignation from Music Hall Advisory Committee – Phyllis Washburn

Resignation from Pathways Committee – Jeff Oakes

Letter from Marion Energy Management Committee regarding the Electricity Aggregation Program

Planning Board request for comments – Clean Energy Collective, off Tucker Road