

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

March 20, 2007

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Andrew N. Jeffrey, Board members Jonathan F. Henry and Roger F. Blanchette and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Andrea Smith of *The Tri-Town Observer*, Ruth Thompson of *The Sentinel*, Jessica Whittaker of Sippican Lands Trust, Patrick O'Neale of Tata & Howard, Superintendent of Public Works Robert C. Zora, Rebecca Carvalho, Carol Sanz, Eunice Manduca, Stephen M. Cushing, Donald Torres of the Water Committee and Richard Kemp and Priscilla Ditchfield, Finance Committee members. Also present were:

Richard & Lucille Jardin	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Begold
Charlene Sperry	Stan & Mary Roller
Mike Walther	John & Dorothy Doran
Belmiro J. Barros, Jr.	Peter Santello
Barry Wyman	Henry Leal, Jr.
James T. Fox	Patricia Bancroft
Joseph & Lucy Napoli	Paul & Annette Hodess
Ronald J. Barros	Sherman Briggs
Jim Maffer	Peter Winters
Julio T. Marques	Michael Santos
Frank LeBlanc	William & Christina Hingston
Paul Francis	Joseph & Barbara Marotta
Nancy Childs	Karen Marotta
Richard & Leedia Macomber	Joseph P. Zora
Steven L. Robbins	Robert E. Wing
Brian & Margaret Avila	Marylee Troutman
Marian Treichler	Jennifer Zora
Jerry Garcia	Eloise Burbank
Joe Guard	Randy L. Parker
Andrew Kilpatrick	Natalie Smith
Shirley Kinney	Zora Ann Burnbull-Lynch
Christopher Berg	Christopher Swoish
Daniel Harris	Jonathan C. MacLean
Nelson M. Adams, III	Nancy Vickery
Joseph P. & Jane Zora	Julia D. Crowley
Lois Hunsdorfer	Paul S. Kohout
Jackie LeBlanc	Christopher Collings
Michael Walther	(Others who did not sign in)

Mr. Blanchette moved the minutes of February 6, 2007 and March 6, 2007; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reported that the IRS recalculates the mileage reimbursement rate on an annual basis; the new recommended rate is 48.5¢ per mile.

Mr. Blanchette moved to adopt the 48.5¢-per-mile reimbursement rate; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a form #43 (transmittal form to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission) for The Wave; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reminded the Board that, at the next meeting, the Guidelines on Committee Appointments would be reviewed and perhaps voted upon.

The Board then met with Ms. Whittaker, who requested approval of a Conservation Restriction on 238 acres of land bordering Mattapoisett, which was part of a land swap with the Bay Club.

Mr. Henry moved to approve the Conservation Restriction; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Jeffrey apologized for the lack of amplified sound, as there was a malfunction with the speakers. (There was also an overflow crowd, which spilled out into the hallway, along the walls and out the back door.)

Mr. Jeffrey explained that the Board wants people to understand why their water and sewer rates are going up; there are three people who will make presentations to explain why this is the case and requested that any questions be held until the conclusion of the presentations. Mr. Jeffrey noted that the Town's engineer, Patrick O'Neale, Superintendent of Public Works Zora and Finance Committee member Ditchfield will stay at the end of the meeting and be available for questions. Mr. Jeffrey was anxious that the information be brought to every resident and taxpayer in Marion.

Mr. Dawson noted that, at the last meeting, he presented the Board with an outline of the recommended water and sewer rates as a result of facing shortfalls in the water and sewer enterprise accounts in the current fiscal year. Mr. Dawson explained the facts which made these rates necessary (significant infrastructure construction, lack of intermediate rate hikes, long-term borrowing rates, decreasing consumption and revenue) and the resulting \$1.1 million in shortfall in the water and sewer accounts. Mr. Dawson explained that, if the rate increases are not approved, the Department of Revenue will make adjustments to the Town's "cherry sheet", which will affect the Town's assessment for the regional schools, among other significant areas.

Mr. Zora summarized the ongoing and completed projects, the expenses associated with each and when the funding was voted. Mr. Zora also reminded those present that the Town was under a Consent Order issued by the Department of Environmental Protection to construct the new wastewater treatment plant or the Town would have faced harsh and continuing fines.

Mrs. Ditchfield discussed the water and sewer enterprise accounts and the shortfalls in each.

Mr. Jeffrey, noting the crowd and the difficulty with the sound system, proposed to reschedule the hearing in another location within a short period of time. Mr. Jeffrey said that they would do their best to create a clear presentation, as there is much information to absorb. Mr. Jeffrey hoped that the information would be available before the next meeting, or could be mailed to residents. Mr. Jeffrey said that the next meeting would be televised.

Several residents called out questions and suggestions.

Mr. Jeffrey closed the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger F. Blanchette, Clerk

Date approved: 5/1/07