

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
April 21, 2009
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Present were Board members Roger F. Blanchette and Stephen M. Cushing and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Ricky Pursley of *The Wanderer*, Gretchen Grundstrom of *The Sentinel*, Eunice Manduca, Carol Sanz, Lucy Napoli, Steven Grima, Finance Committee members Richard A. Kemp, Hamish Gravem, Allen Minard and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Blanchette announced that Mr. Henry would not be present this evening, as his eldest brother died on April 19, necessitating Mr. Henry's being out of state.

Dr. Kemp presented an overview of the warrant and noted that this has been a very difficult fiscal year for all concerned. Dr. Kemp credited tipping fees from the landfill and the sale of an easement for a one-time rescue this year, but advised the Board that the stabilization fund is still below the recommended amount (10% of normal operations). Dr. Kemp said that billing for the ambulance has been very successful at generating funds; however, the hospital now charges for supplies and the EMTs now want to be reimbursed. Other line items were briefly discussed, including the one-year temporary tax increase to pay for a new street sweeper.

Dr. Kemp voiced his concerns about not funding pay increases for non-union employees, the reductions in state aid, the state's contribution to the Quinn bill pay increases and the difficulty with predicting the Town's financial health in the coming years. Dr. Kemp said that he is asking the public to make known the level of services they want.

Mr. Blanchette asked about the \$400,000 water reading meters item, which is a transfer from the water enterprise account—Town officials have stated that there will be no increases in water rates until 2013, at a minimum. Will this investment jeopardize that promise? Mr. Dawson explained that the water rate study calculated this expenditure into its conclusions and will not affect this timetable.

Mr. Dawson summarized the Warrant Articles.

Mr. Cushing moved to accept the Annual Town Meeting Warrant, with the caveat that it is subject to Town Counsel's approval; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Cushing moved to accept the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held in conjunction with the Annual Town Meeting; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Cushing moved to approve one-day all-alcohol licenses for the Beverly Yacht Club on May 2 and the Marion Social Club on May 17, 2009; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Cushing moved permission to hold a VASE family bike ride on April 30, 2009; the motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Dawson requested the Board authorize him to enter into an agreement with Projectdog related to the police station construction project. Mr. Dawson explained that this is a construction application provider/contract management document service which, for \$950, will manage all the inquiries from the expected 250-300 bidders. Mr. Dawson said that the Owner's Project Manager has worked successfully with this company in the past and, upon his checking with former clients, Mr. Dawson expects to save 15%-60% savings on this portion of the project.

Mr. Cushing moved to allow the Town Administrator to enter into a contract with Projectdog for engineering drawings; the motion was seconded and carried.

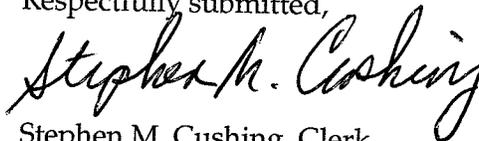
Mr. Dawson explained that someone came in and bought stickers, which have somehow been misplaced or fell off the vehicle, an occurrence which hasn't been duplicated, but this individual doesn't want to pay for a replacement sticker. Mr. Blanchette said that he would leave this decision to Mr. Dawson. Mr. Cushing said that he has a hard time believing that the stickers are falling off.

Mr. Dawson reported that the village sewer project is out to bid, with the project scheduled to be completed May, 2010. Mr. Blanchette questioned the repaving section of the project; Mr. Cushing cautioned that the road would need to settle over the winter before final paving.

Mr. Dawson reported that he is updating the Town's web page with FEMA information to secure points necessary for cost savings on flood insurance through the Community Rating System. Mr. Blanchette noted that, at a Buzzards Bay Action Committee meeting, this topic was discussed—it is a program of hazard mitigation that earns the Town points by just joining the program, with a potential savings of 10-15% on flood insurance. It was agreed that the Building Commissioner would handle the paperwork involved in this project.

Mr. Cushing moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Cushing, Clerk

Date approved: 5/5/09