

## **Water Commissioners' Meeting April 8, 2014**

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards, Chris Stewart

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Ron Davan

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dana.

The agenda was approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

The March 11, 2014 minutes were approved on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

### **Old Business:**

The Superintendent updated the Board on the status of the latest CDBG Project on Memorial Street in Baldwinville. At this time the contractor was installing temporary water main apparatus to feed the water customers there while the road was being reclaimed. The Superintendent had anticipated the permanent water main's completion by mid-May.

The Manager and Superintendent updated the Board on the status of the newest CDBG opportunity for East Templeton's roads. There had not been enough of the area income surveys returned to Mike Pingpank of Community Opportunities Group so this whole project had temporarily been put on hold. Due to the dire need for new water infrastructure in that area (particularly Orchard Lane & Sawyer Street) the Manager had approached Mike Pingpank to offer Templeton Water's support for the project by mailing the next round of income surveys. He also offered to draft a letter from Templeton Water to be included with the surveys to inform residents that, in the absence of this newer grant opportunity, they would likely never see their local water infrastructure improved utilizing only water ratepayer funds. The Board felt that it would be a good idea to take a more active role in this CDBG process and thought it would be acceptable for Templeton Water to pay for the postage for the next income survey mailing and also schedule some public meetings to raise awareness. The Superintendent added that in past years there had been signs posted around the potential grant area advertising some public meetings. The Manager would get in touch with Mike Pingpank to ask what the Water Plant could do to assist in moving this East Templeton CDBG opportunity forward.

The Board was given an update by the Superintendent on the South Main Street water main that was frozen in the vicinity of #257. The homeowner had called the dispatcher the other night to report water blowing out of the last hydrant on the road which signified a thawing. The water customer at #257 South Main Street now had town

water back after a month. The Superintendent had been delivering bottled water regularly to this customer while the town water was unavailable. Gregg asked how much this problem had cost the Water Plant to date and the Manager stated he was not positive but would have a figure for next time.

**New Business:**

The Manager, the Superintendent and the Board had a discussion about the situation on Orchard Lane. A letter had been sent to its residents to inform them that Selectperson Julie Farrell and Highway Superintendent Francis Chase had misrepresented the Water Plant at one of their regularly scheduled meetings. Both the Manager and the Superintendent thought it crucial that Orchard Lane's residents understand that the abysmal condition of their town road was not due to the Water Plant or to any of our previous water main breaks. Although Templeton Water had been to Orchard Lane several times in the past 13 years they had always left the town road in an acceptable manner, usually first with asphalt grindings and then with new asphalt. Selectperson Farrell and Superintendent Chase would have the Orchard Lane residents believe that the current road's condition, the lack of routine maintenance and the new grant opportunity held up were all the fault of Templeton Water. This letter had explained that the condition to which Orchard Lane had been allowed to deteriorate was NOT a result of the numerous water main issues since 2001. The Water Plant was in the practice of not leaving town roads unsatisfactory for very long. The Manager could not believe that the aforementioned selectperson and highway superintendent would use such an opportunity to transfer blame from their department to ours

With the 2014 Templeton ATM now scheduled for May 17, 2014 the Manager still had not yet heard any response from the Selectmen to his January 17, 2014 letter requesting that the water department's operating budget be removed from the warrant. The Manager stated that he would not be in attendance at this May 17, 2014 ATM and he did not want the Board to be surprised there should the water budget still remain on the warrant.

The Manager had a preliminary FY15 Water Budget prepared for the Board but wished to table it until May so he could firm up some of the water expenses which had increased from FY14.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor the Water Commissioners' Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll  
General Manager