

Water Commissioners' Meeting August 6, 2013

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 Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager had received from Tighe & Bond first drafts of both the new Capital Improvement Plan and the Water Rate Study. Both he and the Superintendent had looked over the capital projects scheduled over the next 20 years and also the proposed water rates for the next 5 years. There were several concerns about the level of funding that would be needed to complete some of these projects, in addition to the level to which the existing water rates would need to be raised to pay for new bonds to complete these projects. The Manager was more comfortable with raising the usage charges by 10% for 2014 than he was with raising the customer charge by 75%. He felt as though it would be easier to justify a 10% increase in operational costs since there had been no increase since 2004, than it would be to do so for a 75% increase in capital costs since there had been a 123% increase in 2008. He planned to meet with Tighe & Bond to revise both studies to be more in-line with what Templeton Water could manage over the next 5-20 years.

The Manager had distributed copies to the Board of the proposed changes to the Water Plant's Terms & Conditions. He stated that there were no real groundbreaking changes to be made and that it was more of a check by Rubin & Rudman to verify that present water operations were in-line with existing state and federal laws and regulations. The Board could feel free to look them over for a possible vote at a later date.

New Business:

A brief discussion was had on the potential changes to the ownership of the water distribution system at the Templeton Developmental Center. What the state had really wanted was for Templeton Water to simply take over their existing water system as is. The Superintendent stated that much of their water system was as old as the municipal

infrastructure in that area; put in service in the 1950s. He knew of many water leaks in their water system that had not yet been repaired and the many inadequacies in both the flow and pressure of water for fire protection. The Manager stated that the only way that he would feel comfortable taking over their water distribution system was if they replaced it all first at a cost of millions of dollars. The state will likely not want to do this so as a result the Water Plant would not want the additional infrastructure to manage. There is currently a single master water meter for the Templeton Developmental Center so any water leaks are at least captured so that the Water Plant can include them as losses in their annual water report. The Superintendent stated that removal of this master meter makes no sense and suggested that they simply install their own water meters at each building if they feel the need to divide the utility billing up among several different state agencies on site.

There being no other Open Session business to discuss, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor the Open Session Water Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager