

**Water Commissioners' Meeting  
April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

Members present were: Dana Blais, Chris Stewart

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Ron Davan, Randy Brown, Greg Cheney

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

The agenda was approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

The March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

**Old Business:**

The Manager distributed to the Board copies of three different proposals for Capital Improvement and Water Rate Studies to be performed for Templeton Water. The proposals came in as follows:

#1	Tighe & Bond	\$27,000
#2	Weston & Sampson	\$32,000
#3	Tata & Howard	\$38,500

Both the Manager and the Superintendent had previously worked in conjunction directly with Weston & Sampson and with Tata & Howard on several Water Plant and Town projects and had favorable opinions of both. They also knew that Tighe & Bond was a very reputable water/wastewater consulting firm with many years of experience doing similar studies for much larger water systems for cities and towns. All three firms proposed a monthly progress billing plan as to not disrupt the water cash flow along the course of the studies.

Dana asked the Manager how long each firm anticipated needing to complete these studies and he wasn't sure. He had not read through the proposals in their entirety yet

and had just received the third proposal yesterday. The Manager had noted that Tighe & Bond had anticipated a 6-week time frame from start to finish, which would be ideal for the purposes of needing to adjust the water rates prior to the June 2013 Billing. On a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Board voted for the Manager to hire Tighe & Bond to begin both the Capital Improvement and Water Rate Studies.

### **New Business:**

The Superintendent gave the Board a quick update on the Back Bay Phase V Reconstruction Project on Fisher Street in Baldwinville. There was to be a progress meeting with Dan Lawrence and Mike Pingpank on April 17<sup>th</sup> on-site which he plans to attend.

On a motion by Chris, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the Board voted to release the Executive Session Water Minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

The Manager gave the Board an update on the projected cash position for Templeton Water for the close of FY13. He had met with both the Superintendent and the Staff Accountant to assure that everyone's numbers were in synch, but to the best of the Manager's knowledge based on his expense recording and on his anticipated Q4 FY13 water sales revenue of approximately \$248,000, Templeton Water looked as if it would end up at a deficit of (\$65,000). He had noted several reasons for any cost overruns for FY13 and was able to attribute all of them to the 624 (maintenance) Accounts.

Extensive work had been performed by Maher Services, Stonkus Hydraulic and others at the Willow Street Well Site on the station's well pump, aeration tower and "Par-Co" valve as well. The Sawyer Street Treatment Facility had been in need of a total well casing draw-out to remove the excess Fe and Mn from the lining of the well casing. In addition to this work, Underwater Laboratories had to be contracted to inspect the interior walls of the Johnson Avenue Water Storage Tank, which yielded evidence of "pitting" on the inside bottom of the tank which would need repair within the next two (2) years.

Due to these much needed repairs to a distribution station, the treatment plant and a storage tank PLUS the approximately \$30,000 in unanticipated water main repairs in Q1 FY13, the Manager informed the Board that it would be necessary (with or without a completed water rate study) to essentially double the \$28.00 Quarterly Charge to \$56.00 just for the June Billing Cycle in order to maintain a positive cash position for the close of FY13. The Board principally agreed with this assumption by the Manager but hoped that the Tighe & Bond Studies could be completed in advance of the June Billing. The Manager was confident that their 6-week timeframe would be even less for a water distribution system of Templeton's size, but if he was wrong there still could be an adjustment made in the billing software in May 2013 to collect the additional \$65,000.

At this time [6:25 p.m.] a roll call vote was taken in the Open Session on whether or not the Water Commission would enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation and the Water Commission believed that an Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

Chris – “aye”                      Dana – “aye”

Dana announced at this time that the Water Commission WOULD NOT be re-convening in Open Session immediately following the Executive Session.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll  
General Manager