

Water Commissioners' Meeting March 11, 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 January 14, 2014 minutes were approved on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Superintendent gave the Board an update on the status of the construction of Back Bay Phase VI on Memorial Street in Baldwinville. Goncalves had been chosen by the Town over Morias to be awarded with the construction contract due to numerous negative references given by other towns on the performance in general. Construction on the Memorial Street portion of this CDBG project is to begin in mid-April.

The CDBG Project in East Templeton had been temporarily halted due to the low rate of return of the necessary resident income surveys from this area. The Manager and Superintendent had spoken w/ Mike Pingpank from Community opportunities Group and he had stated that these resident income surveys are critical to release the grant funding to East Templeton for the roadway infrastructure reconstruction. This project will be on hold until further notice unless another mass mailing of these income surveys occurs and produces a much higher rate of return.

The Manager updated the Board on the status of resident Julie Farrell's most recent open meeting law complaint (OML #2014-20) of November 18, 2013 regarding an allegation of an illegal water commission vote on the Water Plant's rates. The Manager had received a response back from the state's Attorney General's office on this matter dated March 3, 2014 which detailed their investigative findings of...no findings. In the opinion of this state's attorney general there had been no wrongdoing by either the Chairman or by the Manager regarding the proper notification, posting or execution of the Water Commission's open session meeting of October 23, 2013. The Manager did point out to the Board that this fourth open meeting law complaint of Julie Farrell's had cost the Water Plant another \$832.50 in unnecessary legal fees to their water customers, and added that this open meeting law complaint of no findings had cost each Templeton Water Customer \$0.38 (including Julie Farrell the complainant).

New Business:

Copies of the Water Plant's FY13 Annual Report and Financials to the Town were distributed to the Board by the Manager. This information would be placed into the Town's FY14 Annual Report and the Manager had e-mailed them to the Selectmen's Administrative Assistant on February 28, 2014.

Copies of the June 2013 water financials (unaudited) had been distributed to the Board by the Manager. The Board had already received their bound copies of the final FY13 Water Audit by Braver, PC, which included the Water Plant's FY13 net income of **\$68,187**. (The Manager must have left these two items on from the last agenda).

The Mass DEP had issued a notice of non-compliance to Templeton Water regarding its Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 2012. Both the Manager and the Superintendent had looked through this list of alleged wrongdoings in completing this report and had found their criticisms so petty; the Mass DEP had been basically reduced to now judging these CCRs based on semantics. The Superintendent stated that when he issues the CCR for 2013 there need be some notification within that Templeton Water made "mistakes" on the previous year's report.

The Manager and Superintendent had worked to complete the Annual Statistical Report (ASR) for 2013 which details the areas where water is knowingly lost throughout the year. The Water Plant's Unaccounted For Water (UAFW) for 2013 was about 7% which was well within the acceptable range of 15% for the Mass DEP.

The Superintendent gave the Board reports on a water main break on Baldwinville Road at Prospect Street and also a water main freeze on South Main Street affecting a single water customer.

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