

Water Commissioners' Meeting March 13th, 2012

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards, Julie Farrell

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Ron Davan

Resident present was: Sean Hamilton

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

The agenda was approved on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor w/ Julie abstaining.

The February 7th minutes were approved on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor w/ Julie abstaining.

New Business:

The Manager had distributed to the Board copies of the construction bid opening results for Back Bay Phase IV. The low bidder was Boucher Construction out of Leominster, MA for \$489,832. This bidder was being evaluated in the area of references but the Manager and Superintendent anticipated an April start date for the project.

The Manager had distributed to the Board copies of the FY11 Town Water Report for placement in the Templeton Town Book in May of 2012. This report had detailed water sales revenues, system additions and/or projects in FY11.

The Manager had informed the Board of some conversations overheard regarding the level of qualification, staffing and training of the water operations personnel. He had distributed copies to the Board of the MA DEP Certified Operator Staffing Requirements along with 310 CMR 22.11B to clear up any misconceptions regarding treatment facilities and distribution systems. Julie suggested to the Manager that these data be placed onto the town's website for all to view, and the Manager disagreed. He felt that to suddenly post regulatory data on the town's website which hadn't been revised for years would suggest to those viewing the website that Templeton Water's operations personnel had not been adequately qualified, staffed or trained (in other words, out of compliance).

A discussion began on the repeated Citizens' Petition from March of 2011 to discontinue the fluoridation of the town's public water supply. Although not yet certified, the Manager had spoken with the Town Coordinator Jeff Ritter about it and there appeared to be more than the required minimum of 100 signatures on the petition to have it as a warrant article for the Town

Meeting in May of 2012. The Manager informed the Board that this repeat effort by a minority citizen group would again waste Templeton Water's limited time and resources to defend a long-accepted water utility practice.

The Manager sought to ascertain the level of support that the Board presently would offer him should this vote in fact take place in May of 2012. A motion was made by Dana for the Board to support the continued fluoridation of the town's public water supply, seconded by Gregg, 2-1 in favor (Dana – "aye", Gregg – "aye", Julie – "nay"). The motion for said support was carried. The Manager informed the Board that regardless of the voting results at the Town Meeting in May of 2012, that he had no intention of discontinuing the practice of regulated fluoridation of Templeton's public water supply.

Other:

The Superintendent had informed the Board of a meeting that he had had with David Koonce of Templeton Conservation about some Zone II property off of Patriots Road. A private landowner had wished to sell the land to Templeton Water first, since it was already a Zone II parcel. The Manager had told the Superintendent to tell David Koonce that Templeton Water had no need to acquire such a parcel of land, regardless of its Zone II status.

The Superintendent also had informed the Board of two anonymous phone calls that he had received regarding the transfer of fill from the property adjacent to #79 Bridge Street (a.k.a. the new senior center location). The callers had had concerns about the past contamination of the land with PCBs (poly-chlorinated biphenyls); although the Superintendent did explain that Templeton Highway had moved this fill and not Templeton Water. The Superintendent had informed Jeff Ritter of these concerned and unidentified callers.

There being no other business to discuss at this time, on a motion by Dana, seconded by Gregg, 2-0 in favor the water board meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager