

Water Commissioners' Meeting November 13th, 2012

Members present were: Dana Blais, Gregg Edwards

Employees present were: John Driscoll, Ron Davan

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

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

The October 9th, 2012 minutes were approved on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager informed the Board that the Town would be going out to bid for the construction contract for Back Bay Phase V in December, anticipating work to commence on Fisher Street in April/May of 2013. At that time Templeton Water will commence its \$15,000 of in-kind service to the project. The Manager stated that thus far Templeton Water had contributed \$10,137 of the \$15,000 that the Board had previously approved as a cash contribution, leaving \$4,863 in funding. The Manager added that the Town had voted to utilize its Chapter 90 funds to pay for the engineering & design portion of Back Bay Phase VI on Memorial Street. After the plans were complete Templeton Water would receive a copy such that they could plan for water main and service connection replacements when the time comes, likely in 2014.

The Manager informed the Board of the difficulty that the Superintendent was having in securing an outfit to perform the crush testing on the 6" and 8" A-C Pipe which had

ruptured. Even with Templeton Water providing transportation of the test pipe to and from said test facility, they were opting NOT to test any pipe crushing for us. The Manager stated that this test would most likely come back with results stating what Templeton Water already had felt; that two-thirds of its water distribution system was at or near the end of its useful life.

New Business:

The Manager distributed copies to the Board of three estimates done by local paving companies to fix both the private parking lot and the public roadway at #1 Maple Street (damaged by the water main breaks of July 14th). Thus far we had Davenport for \$8,800, Rhodes for \$10,300 and Young for \$8,092. None of these estimates include the cost of asphalt which averages at \$64 per ton at the moment. Templeton Water is still waiting for Young's portion of the estimate that deals with removal of old materials from the site. The Manager will e-mail these three estimates to PURMA so that they can prepare a claim check for Templeton Water less their \$5K deductible.

The FY12 Water Financial Audit was near completion according to the Manager. Braver had been to the office already for three days to gather information from the Staff Accountant. When the audit is complete and bound copies are available the Manager shall distribute to the Board.

Other Business:

The Manager and the Board had a discussion about the letter received from the Sewer Commission and the Manager's response to said letter. There were several issues apparently still not yet resolved, particularly involving the issue of water service termination for non-payment of sewer service. The Manager had twice previously dealt with this same issue, first immediately after taking over for Sean Hamilton in 2010 and then again in 2011 following the election of a new sewer commissioner. It was evident that with the 2012 election of yet another new sewer commissioner the issue had been resurrected.

The Manager had mentioned that the MGL Chapter 83 Sections 16A through 16F inclusive specifically authorize the sewer department to collect its due revenue by way of municipal liens. It was the opinion of the Manager that the existence of these statutes eliminated any need for Templeton Water to discontinue water service to non-paying Templeton Sewer customers. Further, the Manager had investigated with the Staff Accountant the aged arrears status of Templeton Sewer at the time of Templeton Water's turnover of all collections responsibilities to Templeton Sewer. In August of

2009 the total arrears in sewer was \$14K and now according to Templeton Sewer their arrears now stood at \$90K.

The Manager stated to the Board that a sum of \$90K of arrears in sewer would likely translate into a sum of \$125K of arrears in water (based on the differences in usage rates from sewer to water). With Templeton Water being down already \$115K in water sales from FY11 to FY12, additional lost water revenue to them would've been catastrophic.

There being no other regular session business to discuss at this time, on a motion by Gregg, seconded by Dana, 2-0 in favor the water board meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager