



WATER DIVISION

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John M. Driscoll, *General Manager*

**Water Commissioners' Meeting
June 14, 2016**

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 updated the Board on the status of the USDA Loan/Grant process to date. The Special Legislation for the Town of Templeton, H.4439, still required passage in both the MA House AND the MA Senate along with in several House and Senate Committees AND the Governor's Office. The Town of Templeton's Bond Counsel, Locke-Lord, would not be reversing their May 2016 decision on the March 2016 Special Town Meeting until Bill H.4439 had gone through all of these processes. Consequently, First Southwest Bank would not provide to Templeton Water a letter securing interim financing of the \$950K in funds to be leant by the USDA at year's end.

To further complicate matters, the USDA would not allow Templeton Water to pay the awarded contractor even on a pro-tem basis, even if they had funds available for a month or two, while the special legislation was being passed into law. Lock-Lorde was waiting for the Governor and the Legislature, First Southwest was waiting for Locke-Lord, Templeton Water was waiting for First Southwest and the USDA was waiting for Templeton Water. The Manager stated that this would be a nearly impossible-to-quicken process and expressed frustration at the position that Templeton Water now found itself in despite having audited financial statements back to FY2001 and positive cash flow.

The Manager had learned from Tighe & Bond that unless the contractor had 150 days in 2016 to complete the water tank demolition and reconstruction, he would have to return in the spring of 2017 to wrap up the entire job. This would most definitely involve an added expense for his re-mobilization thru a change order. At this point, the unthinkable would be having to push off the entire water tank project a year due to the Town's mistake in posting its March 2016 Special Town Meeting. The Manager stated

that the \$94,482 spent on consulting expense AND the \$8,754 spent on legal expense to keep this USDA Project afloat to this point will have been wasted, and there would be no loan closing in December 2016 or January 2017 from which to take funds to reimburse the Water Plant's operating account.

New Business:

The Manager offered the Board a preliminary look at the 4th Quarter of FY2016 for water sold and revenues. His projections were for just under 27M Gal sold to water customers for just under \$346K. These projected figures would complete FY2016 at a total of just over 114M Gal sold to water customers for just over \$1.4M. The Manager would have actuals to provide after July 1, 2016 when the final billing registers had been run.

At this time a roll call vote was taken as follows (8:00 p.m.):

"A motion was made by Dana, seconded by Chris, 3-0 in favor for the Board to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with union personnel. The Water Commission believed that if it were to have such discussions and/or conduct such strategy sessions in Open Session it would have a detrimental effect on the Water Plant's collective bargaining position. It was announced that the Board would later reconvene in Open Session but only for the purpose of Adjournment."

Dana – Aye

Gregg – Aye

Chris – Aye

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 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll



General Manager