

Water Commissioners' Meeting May 7, 2013

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 April 9, 2013 minutes were approved on a motion by Chris, seconded by Gregg, 3-0 in favor.

Old Business:

The Manager gave the Board an update on the progress of the water capital improvement and rate study that was being performed by Tighe & Bond. Both the Manager and the Superintendent had given a great deal of water system financial and operational data to support their study, and there were some new fire flow tests for the water distribution system to be done in June such that the existing hydraulic model could be altered. The Manager was expecting at least a draft water rate proposal by the June Water Commissioners' Meeting.

The Manager told the Board about a conversation that he had had with one of the three paving contractors who had provided an estimate to repair both the parking lot and the roadway at #1 Maple Street. The property owner had drawn a "line in the sand" over getting \$6,633 from Templeton Water prior to his signing of any release of liability form, stating that this paving contractor had provided this estimate to do the parking lot repair. However, the paving contractor had told the Manager that no such quote was given to the property owner, and was perplexed by the \$6,633 figure.

The Manager reiterated his frustration with the situation stating that the Town had already signed their release of liability form in exchange for a (roughly) \$10K check to make roadway repairs. Since this figure came from estimates from the same original three paving contractors the Manager was adamant about Templeton Water sticking to the original figure of \$2,960. The claims adjuster for PURMA had been involved in this discussion and suggested that Templeton Water "sweeten the pot" by including the funds necessary to sealcoat the damaged portion as well, bringing the figure to \$3,785. The Manager thought this not a wise idea, as any other water customer with so much as a blade of grass turned over by town water would come looking for a settlement. Since the Manager had not been in contact w/ the property owner in quite some time, Gregg

suggested that he e-mail him to attempt to get him to attend the June Water Commissioners' Meeting for (another) discussion. The Manager agreed to do this.

New Business:

The Superintendent gave the Board an update on the status of the Back Bay Phase V Project ongoing on Fisher Street, and he stated that they were very close to being ready to pave the roadway.

The Manager revisited the issue of the financial issue with Templeton Water due to the budget overruns in the maintenance accounts of both distribution stations and water mains. The Manager had provided an analysis laying out the need for (roughly) \$60K in additional fourth quarter water revenue, and based on the current 2,176 water customers stated that doubling the customer charge of \$28.00 to \$56.00 FOR THE JUNE 2013 QUARTER ONLY would guarantee that Templeton Water completed FY13 "in the black".

The Manager added that by the time the September 2013 billing quarter came around that both water studies would be complete and that the Board would have adequate time to assess the results and discuss with the Manager any potential water rate increase necessary to continue to operate in a positive cash position. He reminded the Board that this quarterly customer charge had been at \$28.00 since December of 2009 and further that the water usage rates had been where they were since April of 2007.

The Manager would draft a letter to the water customers to be included with the June bills to explain the need for this temporary measure and was confident that water customers would understand his explanation. On a motion by Gregg, seconded by Chris, the Board voted 2-1 to increase the quarterly customer charge to \$56.00 for the June billing only (Dana – aye, Chris – aye, Gregg – nay).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John M. Driscoll
General Manager