

BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2017 AT THE WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE.

PRESENT WERE: Board of Water Commissioners: Chairman David Jones, and Commissioner Stephen Whitmore. Also present: Superintendent Thomas Rooney.

- Meeting called to order at 3:13 P.M.
- Warrants and payrolls signed.
- Collectors End of Month Report reviewed and signed

Solar Panel Update

The Board reviewed a letter submitted by Attorney Charles Sabatt which stated his recommendation for the solar panel tax issue. After reviewing the contract between CVEC and the District, Attorney Sabatt recommended that the District return the portion of the tax paid to the District, but not the portion being retained by the Town of Barnstable. Commissioner Whitmore asked what the dollar amounts are. Superintendent Rooney responded that the quarterly tax is \$1,884.04 and the District's portion was \$487.71. Mr. Whitmore discussed the possibility of having to enter into mediation if CVEC does not agree with the District's position. Chairman Jones asked what the total tax is? Superintendent Rooney replied that the total tax is \$7,528.00, and \$1,950.00 is being returned to the District leaving a difference of \$5,578.00 which the Town of Barnstable intends to retain. Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that he has not received an invoice from the Mr. Sabatt for the work that he has performed for the Water Department. Chairman Jones stated that he intended to discuss Attorney Sabatt's letter with the Prudential Committee in order to decide on the District's response.

Capital Improvement Plan

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that he had been asked by Prudential Committee Chairman Jones to investigate the cost difference between rehabilitations Tank #3, and building a new tank. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that he spoke with the District's Engineer, and she estimated the cost of building a new tank would be 2 million dollars—twice the cost of rehabilitating the existing tank. Commissioner Whitmore asked what the benefit of replacing the tank versus rehabilitating the tank. Mr. Rooney responded that he did not feel that tearing down the existing tank would not provide a long term cost savings. Chairman Jones asked when tank #2 would have to be redone? Mr. Rooney replied that it would have to be done the following year. Commissioner Whitmore suggested that the two projects be bundled together for borrowing purposes. Chairman Jones agreed with Mr. Whitmore. Chairman Jones suggested that the Board discuss borrowing for both tanks with the Prudential Committee, and the acting Treasurer.

Chairman Jones informed Commissioner Whitmore that he felt that the preciously approved Article for paving would not be adequate to do all of the paving that the Water Department needed. He suggested the Water Department should seek an additional \$15,000.00 in order to make the total amount for paving \$30,000.00.

Senior Operator Tivey joined the discussion, and he suggested that the paving consist of one 3" binder coat. Chairman Jones agreed with Mr. Tivey's suggestion.

Abatement Request

The Board reviewed a request for a reduction of a usage charge for #142 Brentwood Lane because of a plumbing leak inside of the house. The owner was away due to a family illness, the leak was inside of a basement wall, and the water was being removed by a septic pump. The Board reviewed the details of the request. Collector Vermette informed the Board that the previous usage was 128,000 gallons, and the current usage is 268,000 gallons--an additional 140,000 gallons. Superintendent Rooney suggested charging the customer for the usage at the lowest rate. Chairman Jones asked Collector Vermette what the reduction would cost the District? Ms. Vermette informed the Board that the charging the customer for the usage at the lowest rate would reduce the bill by \$472.00. Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve the reduction. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** that the Collector charge the customer for the 268,000 gallons usage at the lowest rate, **seconded** by Chairman Jones. The **motion passed unanimously.**

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

There being no further business, Chairman Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Chairman Jones. The **motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Rooney