



**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
December 18, 2007  
Agenda**

SIGNING OF WARRANTS

ACTION ITEM: Annual licenses

TOWN  
ADMINISTRATOR:

*Report—*

1. Requests for water/sewer abatements
2. Snow removal on public/private ways
3. Web site update

*Correspondence—*

- a. From Chief Lincoln Miller re 2008 fireworks
- b. From Department of Public Safety re certification of Richard Marx, Building Commissioner
- c. From Smart Growth Resources for Cities and Towns re LIP inspection, Marion Marketplace
- d. From ORR School Committee re Braitmayer celebration
- e. From Reginald C. Foster re Fireworks Committee nomination
- f. From MRV Water District re proposed budget
- g. From ORR School Committee re school regionalization
- h. From Division of Marine Fisheries re shellfish opening

COMMITTEE UPDATE, if necessary

REQUEST EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purpose of discussing litigation

ANY OTHER MATTERS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

**December 18, 2007**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Roger F. Blanchette, Board members Andrew N. Jeffrey and Jonathan F. Henry and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Ruth Thompson of *The Sentinel*, Andrea Smith of the *Tri-Town Observer*, Stephen M. Cushing, Carol Sanz and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Blanchette read the list of licenses which were to be renewed for 2008 (a copy of the list is attached to these minutes and made a part by reference).

**Mr. Jeffrey moved** to renew the annual licenses; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette thanked the Department of Public Works for the work its employees performed during the last two recent storms.

Mr. Dawson noted that there were numerous requests for abatements of water/sewer bills, which had been categorized by the water department. The first, Amaryllis Housing, had a leak in the irrigation system; the Department of Public Works recommended the request for abatement be denied.

**Mr. Henry moved** to adopt the recommendation of the water department and deny the request for abatement; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The second, Sheila Magnet, also involved a leak problem; the Department of Environmental Protection recommended denial of the abatement request.

**Mr. Jeffrey moved** to deny the abatement request for Sheila Magnet; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry noted that state law does not allow for monthly billing for water/sewer usage. Mr. Dawson observed that the only alternatives are to either pay the bill or have the Town lien the property for non payment. Mr. Blanchette noted that the lien carries a 14% interest rate. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of a home rule petition to address this issue.

The next request for abatement, Rizzotto-Griffiths, concerned the non return of a water reading card. The recommendation was to deny the request.

**Mr. Henry moved** to deny the abatement request for Rizzotto-Griffiths; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The next request from Robert Bent involved another water leak and the resultant recommendation of denial of the abatement.

**Mr. Henry moved** to deny the abatement request from Robert Bent; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The next abatement requests consisted of a group of six, all involving irrigation (#2598 DeCosta, #0268 Ryder, #2374 Brown, #2988 Tillman, #2016 Munnell and #1209 Ryder) and it was the Department of Public Works' recommendation that all requests be denied.

**Mr. Jeffrey moved** to approve the recommendation that all of the irrigation requests for abatements be denied; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry asked at what point could the Board reconsider water policy in some form? Mr. Blanchette recalled that, at the last forum, they had agreed to publicly review the price structure and changes in rates on an annual basis but, beyond that, no further hearings were scheduled. Mr. Blanchette noted that some people are considering putting in wells for irrigation and other uses, but he saw a report from the Department of Environmental Protection that it plans to address metering private wells in the future. Mr. Dawson indicated that the subject of separate meters for irrigation keeps coming up and he has asked the Town's engineers to explore the impact of this option. Mr. Blanchette suggested holding another public hearing, but Mr. Jeffrey said that caution should be used, as they had already held two hearings to allow everyone to express their opinions; an annual hearing should be sufficient. Mr. Henry felt that discussions on policy and options should be ongoing.

Mr. Dawson reported that, because of the recent snowstorms, it was necessary to reiterate that the Town plows only public ways; the homeowners on private ways are responsible for clearing their streets of snow.

Mr. Dawson reported that the update of the Town's website is well under way—the company the Town has hired for this project is gathering information and will be visiting the offices to meet with the Town's employees to expedite the work. Mr. Dawson said that the Board will have the opportunity to view the site before it is placed on line. Mr. Jeffrey asked if March 1 was a reasonable date for completion of the update; Mr. Dawson said it was. Mr. Dawson explained that ten licensees will be authorized to make changes to the site, which will be updated in a timely manner. Mr. Blanchette asked if the site will have a webmaster, because it has been his experience that one individual needs to be responsible for the project or it can fall apart. Mr. Dawson said that he didn't anticipate any problems, as the licenses will be given to the people who work for specific boards and that he oversees those employees. Mr. Dawson said that the employees were excited and enthusiastic about the project.

Mr. Dawson referred to a memo written by Chief Miller, which addressed the cost of public safety with regards to the annual fireworks display. Chief Miller disputed the 20% annual increase in the cost of public safety cited by the Fireworks Committee and stated that the actual increase from 2006 to 2007 was 1.85%. Mr. Dawson

said that he has scheduled a meeting with the relevant public safety officials and Chairman of the Fireworks Committee to discuss the costs associated with the fireworks and resolve any conflicts.

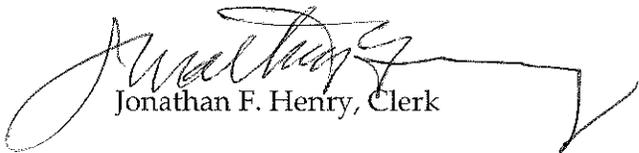
It was noted that the new Building Commissioner, Richard Marx, has been accepted by the State as the Town's Building Commissioner and that he must go through the certification process within the next eighteen months.

Reginald Foster, Chairman of the Fireworks Committee, recommended that Richard Barnes be appointed to his Committee.

**Mr. Jeffrey moved** to appoint Richard Barnes to the Fireworks Committee; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Mr. Jeffrey moved** to go into executive session at 7:45 for the purpose of discussing litigation; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously, Messrs. Blanchette, Jeffrey and Henry voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan F. Henry, Clerk

Date approved: 1/8/08

Attachment