

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

June 10, 2008

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Present were Chairman Jonathan F. Henry, Board members Roger F. Blanchette and Stephen M. Cushing, and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Andrea Smith of the *Tri-Town Observer*, Ruth Thompson of *The Sentinel*, Eunice Manduca, Susan Byron, Superintendent of Public Works Robert C. Zora, Carol Sanz and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Blanchette moved the minutes of May 6, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried, Mr. Cushing abstaining.

The Board met with Mr. Zora to clarify a vote taken at the May 6 meeting regarding commercial trash and recycling pickup. Mr. Zora said that he was concerned about sending out the wrong message; he had requested a list of businesses from the Town Clerk's office and was surprised to find that there were well over 400—therefore, he is unclear as to what the vote meant and Mr. Dawson asked him to clarify the Board's intent. Mr. Zora said that the owners of commercial businesses are taxpayers and are entitled to set out up to five barrels of rubbish, the same as any homeowner. Mr. Zora reported that many of the businesses are home-based businesses. Mr. Blanchette said that the list of businesses is remarkable and that he didn't think the Board intended for these people to be affected. Mr. Blanchette said that he thinks the five-barrel limit is fine; Mr. Cushing agreed. Mr. Henry said that he was under the impression that the discussion covered dumpsters, not trash pickup or recycling. Mr. Zora said that the Town needs the recycling, as they make money from it and it makes the Town look good "in the eyes of the State". Mr. Henry asked if Rochester is still withdrawing from the district. Mr. Zora said that they were and that he will approach Rochester to purchase the truck, as it will no longer be needed by Rochester. Mr. Zora said that he anticipated discussing this with the Finance Committee for an Article on the fall Town Meeting, as the truck has been very well maintained.

Mr. Dawson summarized that, as far as commercial trash pickup, the elimination of service applies to the dumpsters only; other services are the same as for residential customers. Mr. Dawson reported that he and Mr. Zora have discussed the Town's dumpsters and will come forward with information to formulate a policy.

Mr. Zora reported on the progress of the landfill capping and the new water tower at Benson Brook Road.

Mr. Dawson reported that it will be necessary to have another meeting to discuss the County Road water project, as neither Rochester nor Wareham seem to be interested in the additional costs associated with a bike path along with the water project. Mr. Zora said that they need to schedule a meeting to make a decision, because it is holding up the project. Mr. Henry suggested a meeting with Wareham to discuss an

interconnection with the new Wareham water line being laid on County Road. Mr. Zora stated that Wareham had installed a stub at County and Blackmore Pond Road.

Mr. Dawson reported that Tata & Howard, the Town's engineers for the village loop project, has requested an \$85,000 contract amendment, as the work along the line has gone more slowly than anticipated. Mr. Zora said that the contractor has done a great job, but has run into unanticipated obstacles and he highly recommends they give the contractor the extra time they need with a resident engineer on site.

Mr. Blanchette moved to approve the contract amendment request for \$85,000; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed another request for a water bill abatement from Shaw/Hutchinson, which had previously been denied. It was determined that there was no new information presented by the customers.

Mr. Blanchette moved to deny the abatement request; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved the appointment of Nicole DeBlois as Training Officer for the EMS; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a street closure for the First Congregational Church fair on July 26 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., subject to the recommendations of the Police Chief; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion concerning the rescheduling of a tri-town Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Blanchette moved a one-day, all-alcohol license for VFW Post #2425 on June 28, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved a one-day, all-alcohol license for Erika Suzan at the Music Hall on August 16, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a one-day, all-alcohol license for Habitat for Humanity at the Music Hall on October 3, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a one-day, all-alcohol license for the Marion Social Club for July 12, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried, Mr. Cushing abstaining.

Mr. Dawson reported that he had listened to the Board and others, working with Mr. Blanchette, to produce a draft billing policy for ambulance transports. Mr. Dawson suggested the Board not vote on it tonight; he hoped the Board would take some time to consider the policy and vote on June 24. Mr. Dawson pointed out that it isn't always a person's health insurance that pays for ambulance service—automobile

insurance and worker's compensation also pay for the service when appropriate. Mrs. Sanz noted that one of the billing companies has estimated that only half the runs Marion made last year would be covered by insurance—does that change the estimated amount of anticipated money the Town expects? Mr. Dawson explained that insurance reimburses at different rates for emergency and non-emergency transports. Further discussion followed. Mrs. Sanz asked if the estimated income would be changed. Mr. Henry said that the billing company looked at all the runs for a year. Mrs. Sanz asked what percentage the billing company charged for the service. Mr. Henry said that they would charge 6-10%. Mrs. Sanz asked how many companies had responded to the request for proposals. Mr. Henry said that two had. Mrs. Sanz stated that the income limits for free care seemed quite low. Mr. Dawson said that they were based upon a formula used by the federal government. Mr. Dawson said that they cannot formulate a policy that will cover every situation. Mrs. Sanz said that, right now, it does.

A discussion followed on non-emergency runs. Mr. Henry noted that the license requires us to keep emergency vehicles for emergency runs, as non-emergency runs tie up two crews. Mrs. Byron asked if the study upon which the Finance Committee made its decision to support ambulance billing will be available. Mr. Dawson said that he didn't have the information. Mrs. Byron said that the study was mentioned at the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Henry said that the decision was made two years ago. Mr. Dawson explained that the Finance Committee met with the Emergency Medical Services before the Annual Town Meeting. Mrs. Byron said that she can't get the information on that meeting. Mr. Blanchette said that the information should be at the Town Clerk's office; Mrs. Byron said that it isn't available.

Mr. Dawson said that the Board should vote to accept the gift of land from Tabor Academy for the police station, so they may gain control of the site.

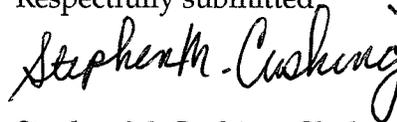
Mr. Blanchette moved to accept the gift of land for the purpose of constructing a police station and to authorize the Chairman to sign paperwork the Town will be receiving in the future; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson requested the Board vote to award a contract for the erection of a fence at the site of the former landfill where the land capping project is ongoing. Mr. Dawson said that the Department of Environmental Protection requires a fence around the perimeter to block access and protect the site.

Mr. Cushing moved to award the fence contract to L & C Fence Company, Inc., the low bidder; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved to adjourn at 8:18 a.m.; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Cushing, Clerk

Date approved: 6/24/08