

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

**July 8, 2008**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Andrea Smith of the *Tri-Town Observer*, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Ruth Thompson of *The Sentinel*, Helen G. Westergard, Suzanne C. Byron, Carol Sanz and Helene Craver, secretary.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** a one-day, all-alcohol license for the Music Hall for October 11, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** special one-day, all-alcohol licenses for the Marion Social Club for August 6 and August 23, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried, Mr. Cushing abstaining.

**Mr. Cushing moved** water commitment #1527; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** water commitment #3026; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reported on his research into income guidelines for the ambulance billing policy and recommended the Board adopt the Hill Burton guidelines. Mr. Dawson said that the Town of Marion is not interested in becoming a collection agency; the intent of the policy is to generate revenue from insurance carriers to fund Emergency Medical Service operations. Mr. Henry said that this had been his goal from the beginning—we all pay for insurance and this is a benefit we can derive from that; we won't know what we collect until we start billing. Mr. Henry said that he agreed with the Hill Burton guidelines. Mr. Blanchette said that he wished to make it very clear that he expects the ambulance service to stay as it is—an on-call service. Mr. Cushing said that he was much more comfortable with these numbers.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** to adopt the policy as presented by the Town Administrator; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson summarized the bids received for the ambulance billing, the reference checks and recommended the Town hire Coastal Medical Billing.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** to hire Coastal Medical Billing, as recommended by the Town Administrator; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson noted that there are a number of individuals who have individual employment contracts with the Town which call for performance evaluations. Mr. Dawson said that he hoped to have forms prepared for the next meeting and to develop a process to accomplish the evaluations. Mr. Blanchette said

that he thought the Harbormaster should have a contract. Mr. Dawson said that they would concentrate on those who currently have contracts and a Personnel Committee meeting would be scheduled in the next four-to-six weeks. Mr. Cushing asked if there were job descriptions. Mr. Dawson said that job descriptions need to be developed for all positions.

Mr. Dawson reported that the reappointment process was not going very well. He explained that, in line with the policy which the Board had voted last year, the committee chairmen had been contacted to have them distribute applications for people due for reappointment and make recommendations, but the response rate has been low. Mr. Blanchette said that he has not seen the form itself, but he has heard negative comments, that the form asks for information which is not pertinent and people are indignant. Mr. Blanchette said that, perhaps the form is not appropriate. Mr. Dawson objected that it is the same form which was approved by the Board when they approved the policy. Mr. Cushing said that he had heard similar negative comments. Mr. Dawson said that, if someone objects to the form, they can always send a little note instead. Mr. Blanchette said that the Board may have been remiss when they approved the form; Mr. Henry agreed that they should probably take a look at the form for revision at the next meeting.

**Mr. Cushing moved** to approve the plans for the Buzzards Bay Regatta on August 12 and 13; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry asked when the ambulance billing would take effect. Mr. Dawson said that they could still sign the contract to take effect as of July 1, 2008, unless the billing company found that difficult. Mr. Blanchette said that the July 1 date wasn't critical—they could have the company get in touch with the Emergency Medical Services to set up procedures and forms. Mr. Dawson said that the Emergency Medical Services won't have to be concerned about additional forms—it will be up to the billing company to take care of these details.

The Board received a letter of complaint from Sharon Rezendes, who was concerned about traffic speeding in the area of Point Road between Creek Road and Route #6. Mr. Dawson said that they would follow up to see what could be done to solve this problem. Mr. Blanchette noted that people routinely speed near his home on Front Street on their way to the beach.

The Board reviewed a memo from the Council on Aging Director requesting the Board investigate the feasibility of constructing a senior center. Mr. Henry said that this idea has come up in affordable housing meetings and he believes the idea has merit. It was agreed to appoint a committee to look into the idea.

Jay Ryder applied for membership on the Water Committee. It was agreed that individuals could express interest in the opening and that this would be addressed at the August 5 meeting.

Brian Murphy of Dexter Road wrote to complain about his water consumption and subsequent bill and requested an abatement on his bill. The water

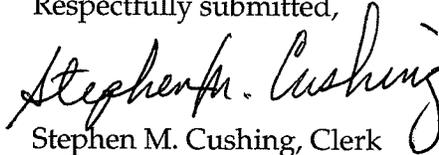
department recommended the request be denied, as the water passed through the meter.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** to deny the request for an abatement, as recommended by the water department; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry noted that they had not discussed the possibility of water theft. Mr. Blanchette observed that the homeowner had been away for the month of March.

**Mr. Blanchette moved** to go into executive session at 7:45 for contract negotiations and to not reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the executive session; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously, Messrs. Henry, Blanchette and Cushing voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Cushing, Clerk

Date: 8/5/08