

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

January 6, 2009

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, Kenneth J. Souza of *The Wanderer*, Douglas and Elizabeth Leatham, David K. Pierce and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Henry requested a moment of silence to honor Mary DePina and Edward Briggs, both of whom died very recently. Mr. Henry recalled that Mrs. DePina and her husband donated the beach at River Road to the Town as a conservation and passive recreation area, both had lived in Marion all of their lives and had been married 79 years. Mr. Henry noted that Mr. Briggs had been a Selectman in the 1960s, was a long-time official of the VFW Post #2425 and a World War II veteran.

Mr. Cushing moved the minutes of December 16, 2008; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved water commitments in the amounts of \$938.37 and \$8,502.62; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved the appointment of Dorothy Burrill to the Marion Affordable Housing Trust; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Another action item was to send the following letters, which Mr. Henry requested be read into the minutes:

"The Honorable Scott W. Lang, Mayor
City of New Bedford

"At a regular meeting held December 16, 2008, the Marion Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to support the City of New Bedford in its request to Governor Patrick and Mr. Cohen, Secretary of Transportation, to work to move the commuter rail project ahead.

"As a small town in close proximity to New Bedford, Marion can only benefit from the commuter rail project for the City. We hope that this letter will assist in that initiative.

"We wish you success and hope that we can lend a hand in your mission to provide this most important service to the entire area."

"Mr. Bill Roth, Chairman
Enhancements Subcommittee
SRPEDD

"This letter is written to support the Marion Pathway's application on behalf of the Town to provide a multi-use public pathway through the Town to ultimately connect to the Cape Cod and Carver trails.

"The Marion Pathway committee has undertaken this ambitious and substantial project to link the regional bike path from Rhode Island to Cape Cod. Their work since 1994 has been consistent, time consuming and substantive and is in agreement with votes at Town Meetings, which have also supported this concept.

"We hope that you will also support this regional project and our application. Please call on us for additional information or if you should have any questions."

Mr. Cushing moved to sign the letters; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved a credit memo in the amount of \$1,509.14; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved a credit memo in the amount of \$1,509.14; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a request for an abatement of a portion of a water bill from Mr. and Mrs. Leatham. Mr. Blanchette noted that the Board receives such requests at a meeting, takes two weeks to review the information and acts at a following meeting—this policy works quite well. A discussion followed regarding the contention of the Leathams that air in the water lines caused the water meter to spin, resulting in a larger-than-normal bill. Mr. Henry noted that the estimated difference of 120 cubic feet would result in a \$10.49 cost. Mr. Henry pointed out that there was a leaking toilet at the Leatham residence during the billing period in question. Mr. Leatham objected that there are only two people in the house, no sprinkler system, no pool, no outside watering and yet they received a \$2,600 bill. After more discussion, it was decided to take the matter under advisement and make arrangements to have the water meter tested and calibrated.

A request from the Carreaus for an abatement was reviewed. Mr. Dawson explained that there had been a water leak in the meter pit, which was not immediately addressed and repaired by the Department of Public Works. Mr. Dawson explained that the homeowner was advised to monitor the situation and then report back to the Department of Public Works, which was not the normal procedure; therefore, the Superintendent of Public Works is recommending a rebate of a portion of the bill.

Mr. Cushing moved to accept the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Works; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

There was another request for a rebate based on the fact that irrigation water does not enter the sewer system. Policy dictates that water which passes through the water meter is assessed 100% for sewer use and therefore, no rebate is indicated. Mr. Dawson reported that the homeowner called yesterday and stated that he will pursue the installation of a separate connection for the irrigation system.

Mr. Cushing moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Works; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

A discussion followed on the last abatement request, based on a defective meter and estimated use. The Superintendent of Public Works recommends no rebate be issued.

Mr. Cushing moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Works; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reported that the claim has been settled on the damage caused by the leak at Sippican School.

Mr. Dawson reported that he had received an e-mail from the Lieutenant Governor regarding a federal "stimulus package" requesting information on Town projects that are prepared to go forward within 180 days. Mr. Dawson explained that he has held meetings to make this determination and will be forwarding the information; however, there is no guarantee that any funding will be forthcoming.

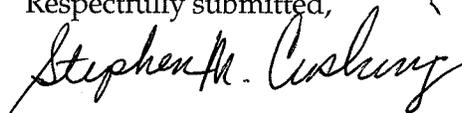
Mr. Dawson reported that the replacement window project at the Music Hall is complete and that he is well pleased with the contractor and the results.

The Board reviewed correspondence, including a request to form a "Marion 2015 Action Committee" to prioritize and implement the recommendations of the 2015 study. It was agreed to invite those parties interested in this committee to attend the January 20 meeting.

The Board briefly discussed several areas where regional services consideration seems to be gaining ground.

Mr. Henry moved to go into executive session and not to return to open session following the executive session to consider the value of real property at 8:30 p.m.; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Messrs. Henry, Blanchette and Cushing voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen M. Cushing, Clerk

Date approved: 1/20/09