

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
February 2, 2010
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Stephen M. Cushing, Board members Roger F. Blanchette and Jonathan F. Henry and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, members of the Alternative Energy Committee William Saltonstall and Norman Hills, Interim Pastor of The First Congregational Church Terry Neuberger, members of the Congregational Church Kenneth and Beverly Hanson, Helen Westergard and Frank Danhauser and others who did not sign in, Gretchen Grundstrom of *The Sentinel*, Ann O'Brien-Kakley of *The Wanderer* and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Henry moved the minutes of January 5, January 11 and January 19, 2010; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

At 7:05 p.m., the Board met with Messrs. Saltonstall and Hills of the Alternative Energy Committee, to discuss a proposal for an Article at the Annual Town Meeting regarding wind turbines. Mr. Hills reported that a met tower had been installed at Great Hill, and the data being collected was "very good". Mr. Hills said that the Committee anticipated going forward and collecting a year's worth of data, which will be completed in July. Mr. Hills distributed a draft by-law change, which they had presented to the Planning Board and will discuss with the Finance Committee and hope to place on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Cushing asked the significance of presenting the Article to the Finance Committee. Mr. Saltonstall said, though it wasn't a money Article, they wanted to keep the Finance Committee informed of the project and the money that could be saved. Mr. Saltonstall said that the turbine had the potential to save hundreds of thousands of dollars on its electric power and a positive cash flow from the first year the turbine is in operation. Mr. Henry commended the Committee for its wise approach. Mr. Saltonstall noted that the tower would be visible from Silvershell Beach.

Mr. Henry moved the appointment of Blake Wilson as EMT-Basic on the recommendation of the EMS Director; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved to approve one-day wine and malt licenses for the Marion Art Center for March 5-7, March 11-13, July 23-25 and July 29-31, 2010; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette moved to grant permission to the Marion Art Center for Arts in the Park and to close Main Street to vehicular traffic on July 10 (rain date July 11); the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board met with Messrs. Hanson, Saltonstall and Danhauser of The First Congregational Church concerning a water/sewer bill which the church is contesting. Mr. Hanson described the changes made in the church property 4-½ years ago, when

irrigation had been installed. Mr. Danhauser distributed a water bill work sheet which he had created, outlining the water use from May 1 to October 31. Mr. Hanson said that there were no signs of water in the basement or standing water on the lawn and that it seems physically impossible that they had used 44,194 cubic feet of water over 180 days. Mr. Saltonstall said that, when this problem became obvious, they performed an inspection of the plumbing and found a few drips coming from the hot water tank and toilet, which they repaired. Mr. Saltonstall said that they would have heard the water running, if there were leaks in the irrigation system. Mr. Hanson said that the church has brought many things to the Town and village over the years and the Selectmen may want to reconsider, as the church is a community center, hosting community events and meetings. Mr. Hanson wondered if having the roads dug up with the village loop project may have contributed to the problem in some way. Mr. Hanson said that the water didn't go into the sewer system. Mr. Cushing said that they would ask for more information from the water department. Mr. Dawson said that the unanswered part of the equation is the status of the irrigation system—it was an extremely wet spring and summer and excess water may not have been so evident. Mr. Dawson said that there had been a history of a leak in the irrigation system in years past. Mr. Hanson said that the irrigation had been turned on May 18 and turned off October 6 and that they had watered three times a week, which would have used a maximum of 14,276 cubic feet—but instead, they had been billed for 44,000 cubic feet. Mr. Henry said that this wasn't the typical abatement request. The conclusion reached was that no one knows where the water has gone and what the problem might be. Mr. Henry asked the church members to cooperate with the Town and have the sprinkler company come in and conduct a witnessed test on the irrigation system; in the meantime, they would wait until spring and further investigation. Mr. Hanson said that, on the advice of Mr. Dawson, they had paid the bill to avoid penalties and interest. Mr. Dawson said that this was required by State law. Other options for the church, such as a separate service or a well, were discussed.

Mr. Dawson reported on the progress at the police station, including the installation of a green vapor barrier, which had caused some calls of complaint from people who believed it to be the final color of the building. Everyone agreed that the crew had put in extra effort to seal the building from the elements so the interior work could begin.

Mr. Dawson announced that the deadline for Articles for the Annual Town Meeting is February 26.

Mr. Dawson reported that no progress had been made by Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School on the sign for the Town House and that he had followed up to discover that there had been computer difficulties in converting the Town's design. Mr. Dawson said that he was hopeful for installation in early spring.

The Board reviewed information from SRPEDD regarding regional communication centers and grant money available. Mr. Henry reported that he had attended a meeting and was told that it involved 911 emergency calls only. Mr. Cushing said that there had been an opportunity last year to do something similar and that the Board needs the information to make an informed decision.

Mr. Henry moved to participate in the study; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Henry said that he would attend the March 25th meeting.

Mr. Blanchette moved to adjourn to go into executive session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation and not to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously, Messrs. Cushing, Blanchette and Henry voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,


Roger F. Blanchette, Clerk

Date approved: 3/2/10