

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

June 15, 2010

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Roger F. Blanchette, Board members Stephen M. Cushing and Jonathan F. Henry and Town Administrator Paul F. Dawson. Also present were Lee Craver, Eunice Manduca, Carol Sanz, Treasurer/Collector Gary Carreiro, Harbormaster Michael Cormier, Shellfish Officer Isaac Perry, Marine Resources Commission members Vincent Malkoski, Peter Borsari and Scott Cowell. Also, Anne O'Brien-Kakley of *The Wanderer*, Chris Reagle of *The Sentinel*, Clerk Ray E. Pickles, Katrina Saltonstall, Margherita Baldwin and Dana Anderson and Helene Craver, secretary.

Mr. Cushing moved the minutes of June 1, 2010; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board met with Mr. Carreiro regarding the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust bond, which has been reduced by \$120,000, thanks to funds from the Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Mr. Carreiro said the bond covers Phases 1 and 2 of the water line project.

Mr. Cushing moved to sign the bond for \$900,450; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Blanchette noted the death last night of Ed Fish, the patriarch of the company which is expanding Littleneck Village. Mr. Henry asked for a moment of silence and remembered Mr. Fish as a man of his word.

The Board met with Mr. Pickles, who recommends that the polling place be changed from the Music Hall to the VFW Post #2425 on Route #6. Mr. Pickles said that he has observed difficulties with elderly voters attempting to navigate the stairs at the Music Hall and that there is also the problem with crossing the street from the parking area. Mr. Pickles said that the VFW Post #2425 hall has plentiful parking, easy access and would be more convenient for the voters. Mr. Pickles asked permission to formally discuss this proposal with members of the Post. Mr. Blanchette asked if there would be a charge for the use of the facility. Mr. Pickles said that there would be a charge and that it would be necessary to send out a notice to every household in Town with a registered voter. It was agreed that Mr. Pickles should pursue the change of voting location with the Post and schedule another meeting with the Board for a vote, when he has made the arrangements.

The Board then met with members of the Marine Resources Commission, the Harbormaster and Shellfish Officer. Mr. Malkoski said that, as promised, the Harbormaster and Shellfish Officer researched their information and have determined the most probable locations of any further applications for aquaculture applications. Mr. Malkoski said that there were four possible locations, but no guarantee that they would

be approved. Mr. Blanchette said that he is concerned that there is the potential for eleven additional sites; Mr. Cushing noted that there are only four sites consisting of eleven total acres. Mr. Blanchette asked if they were prepared to handle this; he is more concerned for the people on shore. Mr. Perry said that, as far as the workload goes, there is no difficulty with adding another commercial farm. Mr. Blanchette again mentioned the abutters on shore. Mr. Cormier said that each case is different – they would investigate each just as they have the last two to be sure that people don't shellfish or swim in the area. Mr. Cormier said that the sites are away from the high-tide line and people don't even see the farms. Mr. Malkoski said that the process is the same: they investigate each one and it is the same with a proposed dock so as not to interfere with navigation and to balance the use of the resource.

Mr. Blanchette asked members of the Marine Resources Commission how they felt about a moratorium on aquaculture applications. Mr. Malkoski said that he didn't see a need for a moratorium, because the process has worked just fine to date. Mr. Malkoski said that it has been suggested that they review the process, which they are doing. Mr. Blanchette said that their policy is ahead of other towns; if they are comfortable, he is comfortable. Mr. Henry said that he sees no need for a moratorium. Mr. Henry said that he has spoken with commercial shellfishermen and they want to be kept informed of any applications. Mr. Perry said that they were absolutely kept informed during the last two applications. Mr. Blanchette said that they would stay with the program which is in place and see what happens. Mr. Blanchette thanked the Marine Resources Commission for its efforts.

Mr. Cushing moved a credit memo of \$293.12; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved a water/sewer commitment for \$12,531.89; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved a one-day, all-alcohol license for the YMCA at the Music Hall on November 5; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Cushing moved a one-day, all-alcohol license for VFW Post #2425 for July 10; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Board met with Mrs. Anderson, Baldwin and Saltonstall to discuss the merger of two similar committees and roadside trash in Marion. Mrs. Saltonstall noted that, as part of Arbor Day, they hold a clean-up day that attracts a good turn out. Mrs. Saltonstall said that it was discouraging, as a week later, the trash is back – particularly around the I-95 ramps and Route #6, probably by out-of-towners. Mrs. Saltonstall said that they are trying to find ways to continue the effort. Mr. Blanchette said that he notices that the ramps, with their sweeping curve configurations, enables people to feel comfortable throwing rubbish out of the window because they think no one can see them. Mrs. Baldwin said that it wasn't only I-95, but there is the same problem on County and Point Roads. Mrs. Saltonstall suggested ongoing education in the form of signs. Mr. Dawson said that the Town doesn't have the ability to fine people for

littering, which would require a Town Meeting vote to create a by-law. Mr. Blanchette suggested this be addressed at a fall Special Town Meeting. Mrs. Saltonstall said that signs won't deter people; they are an opportunity to educate. Mrs. Saltonstall suggested that signs be placed in the windows of coffee shops and package stores. Other ideas were briefly discussed.

Mrs. Baldwin noted that the Parks Committee and Tree Planting Committee have overlapping interests and she proposes merging them into the Tree/Parks Committee. Mr. Blanchette asked that the members of both committees be polled to see who would wish to serve on the new committee. Mr. Henry noted that there is a problem of ownership of Washburn Park and that Superintendent of Public Works Zora does maintenance there, even though the Town does not own one section. Mr. Henry said that, if the Town owned the land, funding for its maintenance could be raised by the Town. Mr. Henry recalled that, at one time, the Washburn family had offered to sell Washburn Park Lane to the Town and that it was time to take another look at that and discuss it with Town Counsel. Mr. Blanchette suggested using Community Preservation funds to acquire the property.

Mr. Dawson reported on a bid opening for the radio-based automatic water reading system, which had resulted in five bids received; Mr. Dawson recommended against awarding the bid to the low bidder, because the meters do not meet the Town's specifications. Mr. Dawson explained that the Town should award the bid to the most responsive and responsible bidder, which would be the next-to-lowest bidder. Mr. Blanchette asked when the Town would disallow homeowners from pumping water from sump pumps into the Town's sewer system. Mr. Dawson urged the Board to go forward with the new metering system; discussions are ongoing with the Department of Public Works and procedures will have to be put in place.

Mr. Cushing moved to reject the low bid from Toomey Water Services as not being responsive and to award the bid to Vellano Bros., Inc. for \$309,001.00; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson noted that, at the last meeting, there was some discussion regarding an abatement request from the homeowner at 659 Front Street. Mr. Dawson reminded the Selectmen that they had requested four years' use history, which wasn't possible, as the house changed ownership in November, 2007. Mr. Dawson noted that the current ownership shows a sequence of events pointing to a leak being discovered and corrected. Mr. Dawson said that the meter tested as running slowly – it could not run both fast and slow. Mr. Dawson said that the Water Department's recommendation continues to be that the abatement be denied. Mr. Henry said that the meter, however, was defective. Mr. Blanchette offered a compromise: take the overage from the previous summer, divide it in half and abate that portion.

Mr. Cushing moved to reduce the billing by 14,267 cubic feet; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson submitted a proposed charge for the Capital Improvement Planning Committee to be considered by the Board at the July 6 meeting.

Mr. Dawson reported that he had met with the Board of Assessors, Council on Aging and Finance Committee regarding the senior citizen tax work-off abatement program and the result is the document on the agenda proposing purpose, eligibility, number of participants, job development, placement/selection and earnings. Mrs. Sanz asked what the income cap would be. Mr. Dawson explained that they had decided that there would be no income cap, as people with low incomes already have abatements and tax credit programs available to them.

Mr. Cushing moved to adopt the senior citizen tax work-off abatement program, effective July 1; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Dawson reported that the new police station would be hosting an open house on July 10, with an actual move-in date of July 12.

Mr. Dawson reported that the Pleasant Street/Converse Road water main work in on schedule. Mr. Blanchette complained about the pothole situation caused by the construction. It was agreed to try to find a solution to the problem.

The Board reviewed a letter from Joseph Carver concerning the profusion of utility lines and equipment on upper South Street. Mr. Dawson said that he had spoken with Mr. Carver, who wanted the utilities buried underground. Mr. Dawson explained that he had told Mr. Carver that the Town has no authority to compel the utilities companies to place the utilities underground, which would entail a significant cost. Mr. Cushing said that the Town of Wareham had gone through this procedure in an area of their town, the cost of which was passed on to every rate payer in Wareham. Mr. Cushing also noted that placing the utilities underground often involves a land taking, as the equipment has to go somewhere.

Mr. Cushing moved to go into executive session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel and not to return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session; the motion was seconded and carried unanimously, Messrs. Blanchette, Henry and Cushing voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Date approved: 7/13/10


Jonathan F. Henry, Clerk