

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 2, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jonathan Henry, Chairman  
Jonathan Dickerson  
Stephen Cushing

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paul Dawson, Town Administrator  
Priscilla Ditchfield  
Christina Bascom  
Sue Wood  
Jerry Garcia  
Bill Saltonstall  
Norm Hills  
Mike DeCicco (Standard Times)  
Chris Reagle (Sentinel)  
Jean Perry (Wanderer)  
Debra Paiva, secretary  
Other audience members who did not sign in

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Town House conference room. Mr. Henry announced that the meeting would be televised, video recorded by ORCTV, and audio recorded by Town of Marion staff. A list of the materials reviewed at the meeting will be attached to these minutes.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**7:05 p.m. - Friends of the Marion Council on Aging**

Committee members Priscilla Ditchfield, Christina Bascom, Sue Wood, and Jerry Garcia were present to discuss their main focus for the next year and provided the following information:

- The Friends of the Marion Council on Aging (Friends) are a private nonprofit group and have entered into a consulting contract with the UMass Boston Gerontology Institute to have a needs assessment study done.
- The purpose of the study is to determine if there is a need for a senior center and what it would look like.
- Because the town is so small including the larger needs of the community makes more sense.
- At the Friend's Annual Meeting in September the director of the Institute will provide a demographic profile of Marion's current and projected senior population.
- At the end of October the consultant will work with three small focus groups and then provide a summary by the end of the year. One focus group will consist of caregivers including police, EMS, COA, Public Health Nurse, and churches, one group will consist of individuals 45 years and older, and one group will consist of nonprofit organizations including the Recreation Department, the Library, the Historical Society, and the Art Center.

- When the study is completed the Friends will come back to the selectmen for further discussion.
- The Friends will pay for the study and asked that the selectmen support the project and attend meetings when possible.

At the end of the discussion the selectmen thanked the Friends for their efforts and for focusing on what the community needs will be.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Request for water abatement – 49 Joanne Drive**

An application for an abatement of water charges was reviewed and discussed. Review of the information revealed the following:

- The request is for a water abatement of \$16,793.08.
- In November, 2006 the remote reader at the property stopped working and Water Department personnel were unable to obtain an actual meter reading until March 25, 2014.
- Water Department staff made approximately 25 attempts to contact the property owner in order to access the meter and obtain an actual reading.
- On March 25, 2014 the meter was read during the meter conversion and it was discovered that the account had been underestimated over a period of eight years.
- For eight years the property owner received and paid water bills based on estimated use.
- On April 2, 2014 the meter was tested and found to be accurate.
- On August 5, 2014 Mr. Zora met with the property owner and was told there was no history of leaks at the property.
- The property owner told Mr. Zora that she did not remember receiving cards that were left at the property. She remembered receiving some letters but ignored them because she thought they were junk mail.
- Mr. Zora recommends that the request for abatement be denied.

Mr. Henry asked if an irrigation system is used at the property and noted that irrigation systems seem to be prone to leaks. He recommended that the request be tabled until the next meeting to allow time for more information to be submitted. A discussion ensued regarding efforts to contact the property owner.

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Cushing to deny the request. VOTE: 2-1-0 (Mr. Henry opposed)

### **Credit memorandum - \$1196.73, 40 Dexter Road (8/18/14)**

The credit memorandum was the result of a water abatement approved at a previous meeting.

### **Discussion regarding maintenance of Sprague's Cove**

Suggestions for a maintenance plan have been submitted by John and Susan Teal. Mr. Henry said that Sprague's Cove is a water purification device requiring periodic maintenance, a plan for that maintenance is needed, and standards for wastewater discharge have changed since the system was designed. It was agreed that Sprague's Cove should be considered a part of the other Town-owned drainage systems. Mr. Henry proposed that:

- Sprague's Cove remain under the jurisdiction of the selectmen
- An RFP be prepared for an engineer to develop a maintenance plan for all of the bio-filter systems within the Town of Marion
- An article requesting funds for the RFP be prepared for Special Town Meeting
- A group of stakeholders, including representatives from the Conservation Commission, Open Space Acquisition Commission, and the Department of Public Works, be created to provide oversight of the resulting maintenance plan

Mr. Dickerson and Mr. Cushing agreed with Mr. Henry's recommendations. Mr. Henry thanked the Teals for sending their recommendations and assistance.

#### **Request for appointment to ZBA**

Mr. Dawson noted that this request for appointment had been received prior to the placement of an ad for volunteer opportunities. It was agreed to table the discussion to the next meeting; the chairman of the ZBA will be asked to provide a recommendation.

#### **One day all alcohol license – Benjamin Cushing VFW Post 2425 – Texas BBQ Express 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. (9/20/14)**

Moved by Mr. Cushing and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to approve. VOTE: 3-0-0

#### **Request to appoint Marion-Rochester Water Withdrawal Subcommittee**

The water agreement between Marion and Rochester is due to expire in April, 2021, and the Marion Water Committee has suggested a subcommittee that would include Mr. Dawson, Mr. Zora, and one Selectman/Water Commissioner.

Moved by Mr. Henry and seconded by Mr. Cushing to appoint Mr. Dickerson, Mr. Dawson, and Mr. Zora to represent the Town on the Marion-Rochester Water Withdrawal Subcommittee. VOTE: 3-0-0

#### **Discussion regarding recommendation of the Landfill Solar Array Evaluation Committee**

A report submitted by the Landfill Solar Array Evaluation Committee was reviewed. Two proposals were received and after reviewing and scoring each one, the committee members are requesting that the selectmen authorize them to begin negotiations with the highest scoring respondent (My Generation Energy).

Moved by Mr. Cushing and seconded by Mr. Dickerson to authorize the Landfill Solar Array Evaluation Committee to begin negotiations with My Generation Energy. VOTE: 3-0-0

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

#### **Completion of Point Road Playground and Washburn Park Playground**

Mr. Dawson announced that the two new playgrounds have been completed at Washburn Park and at the Point Road playground; he noted that Mr. Dickerson did a lot of the work on his own time. Mr. Dickerson thanked the DPW staff and the installation company for their assistance in making the project successful. He said that fundraising is planned for the installation of park benches and made a request to the public for historical information regarding the Point Road playground and the former Point Road School.

#### **Report on successful Employee/Committee Volunteer Appreciation events**

Mr. Dawson thanked Mr. Dickerson and Recreation Department seasonal employee Andrew Harrington for their work during the recent appreciation events.

**Website update**

Mr. Dawson has been discussing with different vendors updating and improving the Town website.

**Update – Roadway Improvement Project**

A construction progress report dated September 2, 2014 was reviewed; Mr. Dawson told the Board that the project continues to move forward with success and a minimum of complaints.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

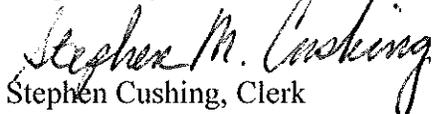
Reading of the correspondence was waived with the following exceptions:

**#6 – Resignation from ZBA – William Jones**

It was agreed that Mr. Jones would be sent a letter of appreciation for his service.

Moved by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Cushing at 8:20 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, specifically, the proposed water tower at Great Hill. The Board will not return into open session. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen Cushing, Clerk

Date approved: September 16, 2014

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TOWN CLERK OF MARION, MA  
2014 SEP 17 9:11

**MARION BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS  
DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AT MEETING – September 2, 2014**

Request for water abatement – 49 Joanne Drive  
Credit Memorandum - \$1196.73, 40 Dexter Road (8/18/14)  
Correspondence from John & Susan Teal regarding maintenance of Sprague's Cove  
Request for appointment to ZBA  
One day all alcohol license – Benjamin Cushing VFW Post 2425 – Texas BBQ Express 5:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.  
(9/20/14)  
Request to appoint Marion-Rochester Water Withdrawal Subcommittee  
Recommendation of the Landfill Solar Array Evaluation Committee  
Plans of Point Road Park and Washburn Park Playgrounds  
Roadway Improvement Project update memo (9/2/14)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Department of Agricultural Resources – Solicitation of Candidates for Appointment as Mosquito District Commissioners  
Memo from Music Hall Advisory Committee regarding payment for installation of parking light  
Invitation to U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla  
Request for appointment to Marion Cultural Council, Zoning Board of Appeals – Cynthia Trinidad  
Request for appointment to Pathways Committee – Steven Lohrenz  
Resignation from ZBA – William Jones

**OTHER BOARDS**

Meeting minutes – Upper Cape School District Committee (07/10/14)  
Meeting minutes – Music Hall Advisory Committee (06/10/14)