

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 24, 2012

Mr. McLaughlin announced that an audio recording was being made of this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rob McLaughlin at 7:00 p.m. at the District offices located at 50 Elm Street, Dedham. Present were Jim Galvin, Ken Bragg, Steve Mammone, Joe Carter, Robert Blume, Bob Eiben, Eileen Commene and John McCulloch. Mike Thornton, Bob Lexander and Steve Locke were also in attendance.

MINUTES

The minutes for the meeting of January 10, 2012 were unanimously approved, with Mr. Galvin abstaining.

FINANCIAL

Warrants and checks were signed. Mr. McCulloch presented the latest Cash Activity Report.

SODIUM STUDY - KGS FINAL REPORT

Chris Kilbridge, of Kilbridge Geological Services (KGS) was present to review his draft final report on the findings and conclusions of the road salt study. Mr. Kilbridge briefly reviewed the recommendations outlined in the report for the District going forward which included continued sampling by the District, to request that Mass DOT verify deicing agent application rates and to request that Mass DOT designate portions of I-95/I-93 as low salt zones. Mr. McLaughlin suggested that a letter be sent to Mass DOT as confirmation of the District's earlier request for a low salt zone. Mr. Carter suggested amending the report to include the specific area that the District wanted to be zoned for low salt. Mr. Kilbridge also recommended that current highway design drawings in that area be requested to update stormwater storage and discharge locations so that the District can update their emergency response plan. Ms. Commene will request these plans from the appropriate parties. Mr. Eiben suggested that the specific area to be included in the report should be from the East Street rotary to the Route 138 exit and the Board agreed. Mr. Kilbridge will submit a draft letter and his final report with the suggested changes for the Board's approval by next week. Ms. Commene will then forward them to Mass DOT. Mr. Kilbridge also suggested having both towns submit how much deicing materials they use on an annual basis and to notify business owners along University Avenue to use only what they need for deicing to maintain public safety.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Pumpage Reports

Mr. Eiben reviewed the pumpage reports for the periods ending January 15 and January 22. He reported that pumpage had stabilized but there was still some leakage which staff will continue to watch for. There have been no leaks so far this month.

Amendment to Rules & Regulations

Mr. Eiben presented the proposed wording to amend Rule #7 – Customer Service Pipes. Mr. McLaughlin stated that because the Board did not have the opportunity to review the proposed wording, the issue would be deferred until the next meeting.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Customer Abatement - 10 Brook Street, Westwood

Ms. Commene provided an update to the Board on the customer abatement of Murray and Patricia Beach, 10 Brook Street, Westwood. Ms. Commene stated she had spoken to Mrs. Beach and explained the Board’s concern with the discrepancy in the repair costs. Mrs. Beach still felt that the full amount should be abated and requested to come back before the Board. Mr. McLaughlin stated there was no reason to have the customer back in since the Board had already voted on December 13th to grant the abatement with the amount to be determined by a second vote. Mr. Carter moved to give an abatement in the amount of zero, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin. Motion failed to carry. Mr. Galvin moved to abate the \$320 in meter penalty fees, seconded by Mr. Mammone. Voted unanimously.

Abatement Appeal

Ms. Commene stated she received notice from the Appellate Tax Board that the appeal of Yousef Girgis was scheduled to be heard on February 9.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 Budgets

Mr. McLaughlin stated that currently the 2012 operating budget was about \$75,000 over budget which would lead to a 1% rate increase. At the last meeting, he explained that the Operating Budget subcommittee wanted direction from the full board whether to consider conservation budgeting, which would set a small percentage increase on an annualized basis going forward, or to zero out the budget. Mr. McLaughlin then polled the Board. Mr. Carter explained that because the rates were increased so greatly last year, he would vote against any rate increase this year. Mr. Galvin also would not vote for a rate increase. Mr. Mammone was in favor of a 1% increase. Mr. Bragg questioned the ramifications of not having an increase. Mr. Thornton stated that the immediate impact for 2012 was less than 1% if all budget projections were met. He explained that he was more concerned with the longer term impact noting that the large increase last year was a product of not doing an adjustment on minimum bills since the year 2000. Mr. Blume was in favor of conservation budgeting. Mr. McLaughlin was not in favor of a rate increase this year. The Operating Budget subcommittee will meet before the next meeting and present a budget to the full board for approval at the next meeting.

February Meetings

The meetings for the month of February will be held on the 14th and 28th.

OLD BUSINESS

OPEB Fund

The Board discussed the issue of the OPEB funding for the years 2011 and 2012. Mr. Carter did not feel comfortable voting on funding OPEB without knowing whether the money was going to an irrevocable or revocable trust or set aside. Mr. McLaughlin wanted to at least decide tonight on the amount of money for budgeting purposes and the issue of where the funds would go could be discussed later. Mr. Galvin proposed putting the money in a set aside account until the next meeting. Mr. Galvin moved to fund a set aside account, designed as OPEB, in the amount of \$110,000 for 2011, seconded by Mr. Blume. Voted unanimously.

Mr. Carter moved to adjourn at 8:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bragg. Voted unanimously.

DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER COMMISSION
LIST OF DOCUMENTS
January 24, 2012

1. January 10, 2012 Minutes
4. KGS Final Report on Sodium Impact Study dated 10/31/11
3. Pumpage reports for the periods ending January 15 and January 22
Proposed wording for change in Rule #7 – Customer Service Pipes
5. 2012 Budget Proposals

OPEB related materials – Letter from Mike Thornton to James Lamenzo, dated 1/20/12, Letter from PERAC dated 1/6/12, Memo from Robert Eiben dated 5/2/11, Actuarial Valuation & Review of OPEB as of 12/31/10 dated 6/27/11, Draft Irrevocable Trust Agreement dated 1/1/12