Minutes
Of
The Foxboro Water and Sewer Commissioners
September 29, 2009

Members in Attendance: Chairman P. Henderson, Clerk M. Stanton, Superintendent L. Potter, Finance Director R. Scollins, Advisory Member Bob Garber, Foxboro Reporter Frank Mortimer

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of August 11, 2009 and August 13, 2009 were approved 2-0.

The minutes of August 25th, September 1st and September 15th were reviewed.

There is a Change of Owner request at 41 Sherman Street for 7 bedrooms, 770 GPD. The original permit was issued for 6 bedrooms, 660 GPD and the actual use is 323 GPD. L. Potter recommends keeping the permit at 660 GPD. A motion to approve the Change of Ownership for 660 GPD was approved 2-0.

The Board met with the Finance Director and the Advisory Liaison to discuss the budget. L. Potter has been reviewing the budget; he noted that the Sewer budget could potentially be $109,000 short mostly due to increased operating costs in Mansfield for the plant upgrades and expansion, there is also less revenue than anticipated coming in. This could result in needing an 18 to 20% rate increase to cover the shortfall.

R. Scollins encourages the Board to take action as soon as possible so the tax rates could be set. A Public Hearing will have to be held before any increase could be voted on.

On the water side, the revenue is down for the first quarter, if this trend continues, the rates would have to increase 55% to cover the shortfall. If the 2nd-4th quarters level off, the increase would only have to be 25%. One other scenario is if remaining quarters are only down 10-15%, then a 35% increase in the rates would be needed. The purchasing of chemicals is the big budget item for water, costing $558,000 last year. The prices have leveled off some, so it might not be as much this year.

L. Potter noted that it has been a wet year and there has been increased conservation by the townspeople. All of this adds up to a decrease in use. Last year water use was 2 million GPD, this year it is down to 1.8 million GPD. P. Henderson noted that any increase in these economic times will be hard.

The Board discussed the three options for water increases; they decided to go with the 20-25% increase. They will look review the numbers again in the third quarter and use retained earnings at that point if it becomes necessary.

R. Scollins noted that providing water and sewer services to the town is a very capital intensive program. He feels that these increases are necessary and reasonable.

A Public Hearing will be set for later this month, possibly October 20th, for the increases, 20% for Sewer and 25% for Water. If any retained earnings need to be used, this could happen at the

Spring Town Meeting. L. Potter will meet with the Finance Department to finalize the numbers. A motion to hold a Public Hearing in mid-October for the Water and Sewer rate increases was approved 2-0.

The DCR meeting will be on October 8th at 1:00 p.m. in Boston, L. Potter will be attending. The DEP still needs to give an okay that the Witch Pond plant was built properly and is operating properly.

A memo has been received from the Town Manager that any Warrant items are due for the Fall Town Meeting. The Board decided to hold off on any action until the Spring.

The organization redoing the walkway around Station 2 is asking the department's assistance in moving some boulders and removing some trees. The Board members are opposed to using department employees for this work. L. Potter will be walking the trail on Friday with the committee.

The Board needs to decide when to have the official dedication of the Witch Pond Wells. It was also noted that there have been ATV's in the area. There should be signage posted that ATV's are not allowed. L. Potter will notify the Environmental Police also. The Board also discussed having AECOM reseal the cement floor in the building.

Correspondence has been received from a resident at 62 Leonard Street, he would like to meet with the Board to discuss a couple of problems he has. He neglected to turn off his service while he was away in the winter months and received a minimum charge. He didn't use his irrigation system this summer, and received a minimum charge for that line also. He would like to ask the Board for abatement. He will be invited to the October 13th meeting to discuss this. The minimum charge is approximately $48.

The Sewer Subcommittee is finalizing their plans and presentation; they will be meeting on October 6th and will come to a future Board meeting.

M. Stanton informed the Board that he will be meeting with Dan Kranz next week to discuss his questions about signage at the stadium. The Board felt that he should not be going there without direction from the Board. The Board members would like to see a list of questions that he will be asking.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray

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These minutes of September 29, 2009 were approved as amended on November 10, 2009.

Michael Stanton, Clerk