

A meeting of the Town of Barnstable's Hyannis Water Board was held on March 9, 2010 at 3:15 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA.

In attendance were Skip Simpson (late), Tom Holmes, Deb Krau and Peter Cross.

Staff present: Hans Keijser, Supervisor, Water Supply Division, and Dale Saad, Ph.D., Senior Projects Manager.

Also present: Ken Maltese and Mark Lavoie from United, Richard Andres

A quorum being present, Chairman Krau called the meeting to order at 3:22 PM without a quorum until 3:26 when Cross arrived.

Operations Report – Lavoie said United is continuing evaluation of sample points and replacing as necessary, the chlorine ejection point is under evaluation. Computerized maintenance system examples are contained in the Report. All required reports were submitted on time, there are no reported problems with monitoring.

February collections show a big improvement over January; United is still refining its collections and reporting. The hydrant at Elm and Willow Streets was totaled in an accident and the hydrant stolen, to will be replaced next week. Some water mains have been shut down recently for repairs, customers were given plenty of notice. Flushing has started.

Financial summary show that past due accounts are up 3%. The delinquent notices are on the bill fronts this month.

The pumping report has been changed to better reflect actual pumping history.

Abatements

Patrick Callaghan, 164 Gosnold Street, Hyannis. Mr. Callaghan testified that water pipes broke following a freeze in February, 2009. He has received a sewer usage abatement and is now asking for a water usage abatement because he didn't use the water. He said he does not like language used on the abatement form as it indicates that an abatement is only given when the Water Department is at fault. He understands that the water was delivered to him, but thinks he should not have to pay for water that he did not use.

A Motion was made and seconded to deny the request.

VOTE: Unanimous. The abatement is denied.

Jennifer Rapp, 79 Pine Avenue, Hyannis. Continued at the request of the applicant to the next meeting.

John Webb/Iron House, 95 Corporation Street, Hyannis. The applicant's property suffered a fire on January 27, 2010 resulting in a request by the Hyannis Fire District to Hyannis Water that the water be turned off. The applicant did not make the request. The abatement is for the after hours shut off request charge due to fire.

A Motion was made and seconded to grant the request of \$158.00

VOTE: Unanimous in favor

Hy-Line Cruises, 22 Channel Point Road, Hyannis. Joseph DeMartino, Jr. Assistant Property Manager represented Hy-Line. Cross recused himself due to family connections. The request has held until the arrival of Simpson at 4:44. DeMartino said that the September billing cycle showed an unusually high reading in August. Everything was checked with no results. The readings reverted to historical norms after September. A bill for \$63 in the summer busy season was highest historical bill, there is no explanation for the August usage. Keijser agreed with synopsis, saying it is a new building, new meter, and there is no explanation except that water went through the meter, who knows where it went. The excess usage was picked up on the exceptions report. Holmes suggest that fishermen use the exterior tap to hose down their boats after hours. DeMartino said they have 24 hour security during that time of the year, he does not believe this happened. The coffee shop is open extended hours and they have video footage – neither reported any irregular usage. All irrigation water is accounted for and no unaccounted for water was noticed during the time period.

Motion was made and seconded not to grant the abatement

Simpson said it is asking too much to go back to the normal usage. He is reasonably convinced that the water went through the meter, the question is where did it go?

Krau asked the Board if they we want to do - deny or reduce the amount requested.

VOTE: Unanimous to deny the abatement.

Simpson recalled other businesses in similar situations of unexplained excess usage – they had to pay. It's a tough nut to swallow but not fair to the rest of the rate payers. Holmes and Krau agree. Was the meter actually looked at or was it a radio read? Keijser said it was unlikely that it's one bad read, it would have affected other months.

Collections Report – Maltese said that the vast majority of customers are current. Many accounts show up on multiple lists – such as accounts over 120 days and those over \$1,000. United is going through the list to get a comprehensive list for shut off. Some are final bills that were not paid, accounting for 308 accounts that are overdue \$100. He will need advice on how to handle those accounts not collected at the closing. They would like to close anything under a dollar. They are trying to target those who owe the most.

The Board agreed that they may write off final bills under \$1 and provide a list of those accounts. They will try to collect from historical accounts owing over \$50 – 66 accts in total. The rest be will be reviewed on a case by case basis. United will advise the Board after further research. They are working through the list of customers with no payments seeking reasons and tracking down owners.

United continues to work on electronic billing payments, a problem because TD North does not offer that service.

Keijser commended Lily and other United staff for their collections efforts. He said there are two scheduled shut offs for this week – one a commercial account on Main Street and one residential customer. Staff has not been able to work with either parties.

The Minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting were accepted with changes.

Keijser introduced Michael Gorenstein, part time project manager. He is working on the RFP for the repairs to the Mary Dunn tank and repainting.

Keijser submitted a memo to the Board requesting approval of a short term construction coordinator. He is worried that if there is no one specifically attending to this coordinating task, we could get in trouble. United Water will provide a construction coordinator for the SCADA project and construction through Tighe & Bond. This position is proposed to be paid from money not used in this fiscal year for salaries. This is a temporary solution. Gorenstein will take over these tasks after July 1, 2010.

All members voiced support for position.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Land Management: A draft program was reviewed. Krau said she would like to see DEP represented at the meetings. Keijser said that Fish and Wildlife worked with DEP in development of the draft. Keijser sees an opportunity to get some flexibility in the pumping permit.

The Board would like to have the wells defined as buildings in the agreement so that they will be included in the 500' no hunting perimeter of buildings. It was suggested that Fish & Wildlife post the land near the wells, since they have experience in doing it legally and correctly. There should be some stipulation that the permit/agreement will allow for pumping more water, but we don't want to be restricted to pumping less. There is an implication that someone could say to stop pumping – there is a question as to who will be administering the plan.

Keijser suggested the plan will be a stewardship program. Cross said he doesn't know enough about the plan to know what he wants. Simpson sees this as is a window of opportunity, we could improve production in this area. Keijser will seek additional information and report back.

Old Yarmouth Road and Ferndock Road: The response from Tom Geiler, Director of Licensing was read. The Ferreira permit requires a fence and barrels stored inside. Keijser said there is no fence and barrels are outside. Ferreira is not meeting the conditions of his permit. Board members will drive by and report non-compliance.

Krau said that Growth Management is willing to work with the Board on the area as a whole to determine what's there and what their licensing requirements are. She will take up them up on the offer and suggest a timetable for action. She suggested a notice to the property owners that they are in the well head protection area.

Saad said that Public Health had been inventorying chemicals. They may have an idea of what is on properties in this area. She said they don't have to notify the property owner when they are coming on a property and so can be more effective in finding out what is stored on a property. Saad will see what records exist, and if Public Health is still inventorying.

Schedule for the water tower project – public outreach. Tighe & Bond should not be going to community groups by themselves. Keijser will clarify with T&B that a Board member and Keijser will attend any meeting with community stakeholders.

Krau said she does not like the site evaluation method – the percentages of the top 5 criteria are too heavily weighted – more items should be considered. The stakeholder concerns should not fall under the “all others” category. T&B will be asked to re-do the weights and add more criteria. Simpson said he thinks it is fine as is. Perhaps consider 10 items, rather than 6, we can’t make a decision with so few criteria. The Board will ask for examples of criteria used by other communities. T&B needs to educate the Board - this doesn’t make sense to us. Krau and Keijser will contact T&B to explain issues.

Airport Master Plan: Krau asked the Board if there is anything else to add to the letter presented to the Airport March public hearing. Krau reserved the right to submit a letter at a later time. Simpson and Cross are satisfied, but don’t want to close the door on other concerns. A letter will be sent to the Town Councilors and Cape Cod Commission regarding the master plan.

Silent Spring – Keijser has not gotten test results of water sampling, they are due at the end of the month. Sites tested were Hyannisport on Smith Street, north of the airport wells, and the distribution system. Keijser Googled all the compounds we know to be in the water for the Board’s information. There are no federal or state health standards for most of the compounds. A standard response to inquiries should be referral to the web site for the water quality report and to state that we are in compliance with all known standards and that, as new standards are developed, we will comply with those. Hyannis Water voluntarily participated and partially paid for the Silent Spring study. We regularly test for regulated compounds. Keijser will draft a response and send it to Krau. It is important to note that this situation is not unique to the Hyannis Water System, it is nationwide.

Keijser has made an initial contact with the County Extension Service regarding a program to collect old pharmaceuticals. There is a legal issue requiring working with the police. A recycling box could be placed at the police station. Drugs need to be collected and crushed. For now residents should dispose of them in their trash – mixed with coffee grounds or kitty litter to discourage re-use.

Krau said that Simpson’s and Baxter’s terms are expiring in June. Baxter has indicated she will not seek re-appointment, Simpson was urged to consider re-appointment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Geoffrion