



TOWN OF CARVER

North Carver Water District

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North Carver Water District Minutes September 18, 2013

Posted in Accordance with the Provisions of M. G. L. Chapter 30A, Section 20B, authorized person Jack Hunter.

The North Carver Water District Commissioners met on September 18, 2013, at the Carver Town Hall, Meeting Room #4, 108 Main Street, Carver, MA. The meeting was opened by Mr. Kevin Tracey at 6:05 pm.

PRESENT: Kevin Tracey, Chair; William Sinclair, Commissioner

ABSENT: Debbera Silva, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT:

Jack Hunter, Director of Planning and Community Development; Meg LaMay, Town Accountant; Bruce Trumbull, SWSS; Mike Woollam, SWSS; Mike Ohl, Comprehensive Environmental

1. CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION: None

2. APPOINTMENT – Meg Lemay, Financial and FY14 Budget Update

Ms. Meg Lemay reviewed the financial status of the North Carver Water District and the projected revenue and expenses for FY14 (Exhibit B). FY13 had a deficit of approximately \$64,000, which will be absorbed into the tax rate. The FY14 shortfall is projected to be around \$260,000, and the Commissioners need to be prepared to go before Town Meeting in November with a plan on how to address this. Mr. Hunter, Ms. Lemay, and Mr. Tracey decided to meet to discuss a plan.

3. 6:15pm PUBLIC HEARING – Proposed Water Rate Increase

Mr. Kevin Tracey read the Public Hearing Notice (Exhibit C) and opened the hearing at 6:18pm. One customer, Ms. Suzanne Gordon, was unable to attend the hearing so sent an email (Exhibit D) to Mr. Hunter, stating that the proposed rate increase is outrageous. Mr. Tracey read the whole email out loud. Mr. Hunter read his response to Ms. Gordon out loud, which was followed-up with another email from Ms. Gordon, which Mr. Tracey read out loud (Exhibit E).

Mr. Tracey mentioned the Chapter 59 potential to propose to the Selectmen, specifically designed to keep water rates lower. Mr. Michael Ohl said he had been attending a water seminar in which rates were discussed and that most rates do not reflect the true cost of water. Most rates are subsidized by a town's general fund. He also said that the State has been looking at water infrastructure costs and has said that people should pay 1.25% of the median household income for water. Mr. Bruce Trumbull said that NCWD has a commitment to its users to have water at a reasonable access and that a rate hike is a tool with which to achieve this goal.

Mr. William Sinclair said that the taxpayers of the Town will reap the benefit of the Water District so should bear some of the burden. Mr. Hunter noted that all the residential betterments had been waived. Mr. Trumbull said that the public needs to understand that the water development happens in phases, and this is only the beginning stage. Eventually the Town will be able to offer fire protection, with hydrants available, thus decreasing residents' insurance. Mr. Sinclair noted that Cranberry Village was supplemented by the Town.

Ms. Lemay stated that a rate increase would not help much proportionately in filling the gap between the NCWD's revenue and expenses. She said that there is a \$48,000 debt that was subsidized by the IRS which was due in December and has not been paid. Ms. Lemay and the Town Treasurer have been actively pursuing payment.

Mr. Tracey stated that as per the District's pro-forma, water rate increases should be done annually.

There were no other public comments.

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to close the Public Hearing

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The Public Hearing of the North Carver Water District to hear comments on the proposed water rate increase was closed at 6:42pm.

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to increase the rate to \$9.71 per 1000 gallons

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Rate increase to go into effect October 1, 2013.

4. MINUTES: August 26, 2013 – Not ready at this time.

5. DECAS CRANBERRY OFF-SITE USER AGREEMENT – update

There was one complaint on Friday from MBO because of low water pressure while Decas was drawing water. Decas also complained about the slow fill rate that Small Water Systems had calibrated, so adjusted the rate to 450/minute, causing the water to drop too quickly. It has been re-calibrated to 300/minute and the valve chained to prevent adjusting. Mr. Mike Woollam has been monitoring the withdrawals, and Decas has been taking about four tanks per day (408,000 gallons to date), average 36,000/day. Mr. Hunter asked that the withdrawal tickets be scanned and sent to him weekly or monthly. Mr. Bruce Trumbull stated that the response time to problems that arise has dropped to minutes.

Mr. Sinclair asked what the cost is to the District vs. the benefit of the expected revenue for the year.

6. WATER OPERATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Trumbull reported that due to MBO Precast making a complaint of low water pressure while Decas withdrew water, SWSS discovered that MBO had a 2" meter that was connected without anyone's knowledge. It has now been inspected and tested and set up with a radio read. Mr. Hunter will call Mr. Jeff Opachinsky to advise him against illicit water hook-ups.

Mr. Trumbull informed the Commissioners of a new water service application for 241 Plymouth Street and that Mr. Woollam installed 14 new meters at the Cornerstone plaza at 96 North Main Street. He also said that he had met with the co-owner and property manager for Shaw's and had given them one month to comply with the Commissioners' requests, but to date had not complied. He suggested sending a notice to warn that they would have 30 days in which to comply or the water would be shut off.

Mr. Woollam reported on an incident on Monday, September 16th. The pH probe became clogged with iron and went to GE as an alarm, but it had never been programmed into the SCADA system so SWSS was not notified of a low level alarm. Middleborough supplied water for an hour, and Mr. Woollam contacted the SCADA people to make sure it would be added to the alarm system.

Mr. Trumbull noted that now that Decas is drawing so much water, what would have been a minor problem now becomes a major problem.

Mr. Ohl distributed two proposed clear well expansion scenarios (Exhibit F) and suggested that there was space behind the generator for two 20,000 gallon tanks, which could be trucked in and cost approximately \$100,000 per tank installed. He also suggested installing a mid-level alarm.

7. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

a. Bills Payable (Exhibit G)

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to approve payment of bills as presented on the Schedule of Department Bills Payable dated 9/18/13, totaling \$11,019.05

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

b. FM Generator Maintenance Contract (Exhibit H)

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to sign the contract for maintenance at the North Carver treatment plant with FM Generator at \$800 per year

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

d. Customer Overdue Demand Notices (Exhibit I)

Six shut off notices were sent out via certified and first class mail. One paid in full, four have set up payment plans, and one has made a payment and needs to set up a payment plan. Two of the payment plans, for Allen and McDonald, were not as prescribed by the Rules and Regulations due to financial hardship and need approval of the Commissioners. Pay stubs have been requested but not received as of yet. The Commissioners agreed to wait to approve these until they have been received.

e. Retainer Contractor Info (Exhibit J)

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to accept the NCWD emergency service operators in the order of #3-Thomas Brothers, #4-Page Corporation, #5-Bolduc Sanitation & Excavation

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

f. Meter Reading

Billing software is needed for Carver to be able to issue the water bills. TiSales is investigating the options and will notify Ms. Kay of the options. Ms. Kay will double-check with the Treasurer to verify that the Town's billing software would not work.

Ms. Kay came upon a quote (Exhibit K) for extended maintenance for the meter reading device from 8/2/12 which was not purchased. The Commissioners decided it is not needed.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Hot Box Bids (Exhibit L): Mr. Ohl opened the bids on September 4th. Four were received. The highest was from Dankris Builders at \$52,400.00 and the lowest was from Methuen Construction at \$35,669.00. The estimate was \$25,000.

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to award the contract to Methuen Construction, in the amount not to exceed \$35,669.00

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

This is to be funded out of escrow.

Flushing: Middleborough will be flushing their system in a few weeks and will flush North Carver as well if desired. The Commissioners agreed to have it done.

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss strategy with respect to litigation for the following properties:

MOTION: by Mr. Sinclair to move into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation

SECOND: by Mr. Tracey

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY at 8:20pm and agreed not to move back to Open Session

The North Carver Water District meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm on September 18, 2013.

Table of Documents

Exhibit A	Meeting Agenda – September 18, 2013
Exhibit B	FY13 & FY14 Financial Statements
Exhibit C	Public Hearing Notice
Exhibit D	email from Suzanne Gordon 9/18/13, 10:14am
Exhibit E	email from Suzanne Gordon 9/18/13, 3:54pm
Exhibit F	Proposed Clear Well Expansion Scenario Plans
Exhibit G	Schedule of Department Bills Payable 9/18/13
Exhibit H	FM Generator Maintenance Contract proposal
Exhibit I	NCWD Customer Outstanding Balance spreadsheet
Exhibit J	Emergency Services Operators data
Exhibit K	TiSales Meter Reader Maintenance Quote
Exhibit I	Hot Box Canvass of Bids