WATER ADVISORY BOARD

BELMONT, MA, 02478
(617) 993-2700

Water Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2008

In attendance: Chairman Frank E. French Jr., Clerk Joseph F. Greene, Member William Shea, DPW Director Peter J. Castanino, Assistant DPW Director Michael A. Santoro, Business Manager Judi Carmody, Water Superintendent Gerard Schultz, Assistant Water Superintendent Michael Bishop, Resident Hagop Gebeshian, Resident Janice Crivelli.

1. Chairman French called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

2. Resident Hagop Gebeshian of 105 Maple Street plead his case regarding his water and sewer bill # 101684. Mr. Gebeshian insisted that the water meter was defective and that he believes he has over paid the Water Division for at least one year in excess of $1,800. Assistant Superintendent Bishop stated that that Water Division changed out the meter at Mr. Gebasian's residence on January 9, 2008 and found it to be operating correctly according to the American Water Association and the manufacturer's standard of testing water meters. Mr. Gebeshian disagreed with Mr. Bishop's findings and requested that the meter be tested in sequence with the current new meter. Mr. Bishop agreed to run the two meters in series, set up an appointment with Mr. Gebeshian to begin the meter test.
   Chairman French made a motion to table this item for three months until the sequential meter test has been finalized and analyzed.
   Seconded by Mr. Greene.
   Voted unanimously.

3. Customer Janice Crivelli plead her case on behalf of her father's estate at 17 Richardson Road regarding charge of $640.00 to replace pipe from town main to residential property. Ms. Crivelli was under the assumption that the damage was due to a water main break on February 15, 2007 and that the Town was responsible for any associated costs. Assistant Superintendent Bishop explained the timeline of occurrences at this location from February 15, 2007 until November 5, 2007. Mr. Bishop explained to Ms. Crivelli that when the Construction Supervisor Dominic DeSalvatore spoke to Mr. Andrew Crivelli on September 26, 2007 he explained who was responsible for the replacement and cost of the water service to the house. The Water Division was never notified that Mr. Crivelli was not authorized to approve this work and Mr. Crivelli met with the Water Division on November 5, 2007 and authorized the work to restore water service at 17 Richardson Road.
   Chairman French made a motion to find this an unfound claim, that the Water Division was not incorrect for accepting Mr. Crivelli's authorization and that it is Ms. Crivelli's responsibility to notify the Town with any changes in contact information.

Seconded by Mr. Greene.
Voted unanimously.

4. Assistant Superintendent Bishop explained the issue with the irrigation bill from July 31, 2008 for 77 Wellesley Road. There was a leak in the irrigation system that went undetected resulting in high consumption. The resident Mr. David Ganz is requesting a one time water adjustment and has shown proof that the leak has been repaired.
   Chairman French made a motion that this irrigation bill stands as is, that irrigation meters are a luxury and not knowing about a leak in an irrigation system is not a valid reason for an adjustment.
   Seconded by Mr. Greene.
   Voted unanimously.

5. Assistant Superintendent Bishop explained the issue with the water /sewer bill from December 31, 2007 bill for 70 Horace Road. There was a leak in the toilet located in the basement that the resident rarely used. The resident is asking for a one time water and sewer adjustment.
   Chairman French made a motion of a one time water and sewer adjustment based on the average usage for the prior two similar quarters.
   Seconded by Mr. Shea.
   Voted unanimously.

6. Assistant Superintendent Bishop explained the issue with the irrigation bill from July 31, 2008 for 302 Cross Street. There was a leak in the irrigation system that went undetected resulting in high consumption. The resident Ms. Katherine Zevitas is requesting a one time water adjustment.
   Chairman French made a motion of a one time water adjustment based on the average usage for the prior two similar quarters and to also revisit and amend the motion for 77 Wellesley Road to include a similar adjustment to be consistent and fair with all decisions.
   Seconded by Mr. Shea.
   Voted unanimously.

7. Assistant Superintendent Bishop explained the issue with the water /sewer bill from December 31, 2007 bill for resident Ms. Leate at 29-31 Jeannette Avenue. There was a leak at the boiler located in the basement that the resident was unaware of since she is physically unable to enter her basement due to a handicap. The resident called the Fire Department on September 24, 2008 when she heard water running. The Fire Department alerted the Water Division who responded and found a leak at the water meter before the house service and a

leak at her boiler located in the basement. Ms. Leate is asking for a one time water and sewer adjustment based on the average usage for the prior two similar quarters.
Mr. Greene made a motion of a one time water adjustment based on the average usage for the prior two similar quarters
Seconded by Mr. Shea.
Voted unanimously.

8. Chairman French made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 13, 2008.
   Seconded by Mr. Greene
   Voted unanimously.

9. Superintendent Schulz presented an overview of the Water Division to new member William Shea explaining how it originated where it is now and the direction for the future.

10. Director Castanino discussed the MWRA Local Pipeline Assistance Program (LPAP) along with the capital projects that the Water Division is preparing for. The goal for the division is to have lined pipes less than one hundred years old and an effort to keep the rate increase at 5% or less every year. Director Castanino stated that the FY10 water main replacement program is in the design stage and will go out to bid this spring. Superintendent Schultz reported on the following items

    a. Kilburn Road water main project has been completed and that he is very pleased with the results.
    b. School Street water main project is the first of the larger projects from the LPAP funding several areas have been replaced. The contractor used the pipe bursting technique on Blanchard Road making an 8"opening from a 6" pipe. The contractor is finished for the winter season and will start back in the spring.

11. Director Castanino explained to member Shea that the Light Department handles the water and sewer meter reading and billing and that the Water Division is looking into online debit and credit payments. Director Castanino discussed the RFP for a rate study that will include monthly billing as an option.

WATER ADVISORY BOARD

BELMONT, MA, 02478
(617) 993-2700

12. Superintendent Schultz gave the FY10 budget overview explaining that the 7% increase is mostly due to MWRA increases and that the Water Division is financially stable with $1.6 million in retained earnings.

13. Assistant Superintendent Bishop discussed the MWRA's Water Conservation Program and how the Water Division has advertised this program in the newspaper, on the Town's website and on flyers that were inserted in the light bills in April encouraging water conservation. These flyers are free to the local communities and they give tips on both indoor and outdoor water conservation. The Public Works office has water conservation kits that include low flow retro fit adapters for shower heads and faucet aerators along with dye tablets to check for silent leaks for distribution to anyone interested.

14. Chairman French motioned to adjourn meeting at 10:31am.
    Seconded by: Mr. Greene
    Voted Unanimously

Joseph F. Greene, Clerk