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Water Advisory Board Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2010

In attendance: Chairman Frank E. French Jr., Clerk Joseph F. Greene, Member William Shea, DPW Director Peter J. Castanino, Assistant DPW Director Michael Santoro, Water Manager Michael Bishop, Water Operations Manager Dominic DeSalvatore, DPW Business Manager Judi Carmody, Consultant Chris Woodcock.

1. Chairman French called the meeting to order at 7:57 am.
2. Chairman French congratulated Dominic DeSalvatore on his recent promotion to Water Operations Manager. The Water Advisory Board formally acknowledged and commended the Public Works Department and its Division personnel for their performance during the recent MWRA pipe failure with the attached letter.
3. Director Castanino explained the reasons for the Water and Sewer Rate Study, discussing the current different policies and rate structures. The study includes a financial analysis and similar rate structures for both water and sewer. Mr. Woodcock explained the background on costs, inflation and consumption stating that Belmont's water is less expensive than its value. Mr. Woodcock made the following recommendations:
 - a. Meter sized base charges to include the cost of meter testing, reading billing, postage and repairs
 - b. Fire Prevention fees, reinstitute the fee that was dropped ten years ago
 - c. Eliminate lifeline irrigation rate.
 - d. Change lifeline rate to 75% of retail cost to cover MWRA costs.
 - e. Separate irrigation rates to cover peak demands and higher costs.
 - f. Change customer charge name to reflect actual charge of billing and metering.

Director Castanino added that this study allocates costs in the correct places by current standards and questioned if there should be a public meeting to explain changes in billing. Chairman French stated that there needed to be some kind of explanation somewhere for users to access easily. Director Castanino suggested sending a letter to the residents and certain users that would be most affected by the rate changes along with posting the rate study on the town's web page.

4. Chairman French motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 am.
Seconded by Mr. Greene
Voted Unanimously.



 Joseph F. Greene, Clerk