

Notes on the Worksession of the Provincetown Water & Sewer Board

Held on Tuesday, January 19, 1999

At the Grace Gouviea Bldg, 26 Alden St., Provincetown

The following minutes are available on-line as a service and are not the official record due to changes in formatting for the Internet. The minutes may have attachments that are not included here in this format. The official, complete paper copy can be viewed during regular office hours, Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Office of the Town Clerk, 260 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657.

In attendance:

Custodio Silva, (chaired the worksession)

David Perry

John Cicero

Keith Bergman, Town Manager

David Guertin, DPW Director

James Cook, Water Superintendent

Kathie Meads, Water Dept. Secretary

Not in Attendance:

Larry Murphy (excused)

Joel Ouellet (unexcused)

Keith Bergman informed the Board that there will not be a meeting of the Provincetown Water and Sewer Board with the Truro Board of Selectmen on January 28, 1999.

Custodio Silva agreed to chair this worksession in the absence of Larry Murphy.

**FEES:**

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Custodio asked the Board to look at fees assessed by the Water Department for services such as new water connection fees and service calls. Could the new fees be acted on at the public hearing for the new water rates?

Keith explained that the public hearing would have to clearly indicate the fees and the rates as two different charges

and advertise that way but it is within the authority of the Water & Sewer Board to charge fees.

Jim Cook added that if we do want to change the rate and fee structure around we should do it now.

Keith agreed and suggested that it could be made part of the same package.

Custodio directed the Board to consider giving the Selectmen a package which includes a fee schedule for additional revenue.

David Guertin addressed the Board with a draft schedule of fees which he and Jim Cook had worked on during the last week. (See attached) Option D was the highlighted suggestion but it was pointed out by David that this may not be enough revenue. The target amount is in the area of \$780,000 and the suggested rate schedule will get us there.

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Kathie asked if the suggested rate had considered the amount needed for abatements? The amount of \$51,700 which is listed in the revenue column was also questioned.

Keith explained that he had gotten these figures from the DPW and some more discussion took place regarding the target amount and how it could be arrived at through water revenue sources.

John Cicero wanted to make a motion that they will be charged overage for gallons used at the pier.

Keith explained how the pier bill is metered through one meter and is charged as a Town Account anyway so that all the water is accounted for and billed.

The motion did not get seconded.

David Guertin led the discussion on the proposed sprinkler fees which are estimated to bring in approximately \$20,000

based on the 38 systems we know are in place. The service connection fees are based on what other Cape communities are charging. We need to consider more fees.

David Perry has reviewed the fees as proposed by Jimmy Cook's research into what other communities are charging and feels the proposals are in line.

Keith Bergman corrected the proposed water use rate schedule as he had recalled and noted that at the previous worksession it was agreed to lower the upper threshold from 250,000 gallons down to 200,000 gallons.

There was generally agreed and noted on the new rate schedule.

A general discussion about water leak abatement policy continued for a few minutes discussing the need to adjust this policy due to the large amount of money which gets abated for leaks.

Custodio made a **motion** to discuss the water leak abatement policy at the next meeting.

It was seconded by David Perry. Vote in favor 3 – 0.

Keith explained that if the leak abatement policy does change you will have to have a public hearing to advertise the proposed changes.

### **RATES:**

The rates as had been discussed at the worksession on January 12, 1999 were presented in written form by Jim Cook with several examples of how these rates would effect customers in

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different billing tiers. Keith said this would be helpful in David's presentation to the Selectmen that evening.

It was generally agreed that the proposed rate would achieve the target goal and the **motion** was made by John Cicero to recommend the fee schedule to the Board of Selectmen for their approval. David Perry seconded the vote. The vote was for the proposed new rate and the fees for sprinkler system annual fees and water service connection fees (see attached schedule). Vote in favor 3 –0.

Custodio expressed a wish to discuss the fees that could be assessed further at another meeting.

David Perry made a **motion** to adjourn. Seconded by Custodio Silva. Vote to adjourn in favor 3 –0.

Meeting Adjourned 2:35 p.m..