

Water & Sewer Board

Town of Provincetown

Meeting Agenda for September 14, 1999

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.

Location: Grace Gouveia Building, 26 Alden Street, Provincetown

In Attendance:

Custodio J. Silva, Jr. Chairman

Giovanni (John) Cicero

David Perry

Craig Wiegand, Water Superintendent

David Guertin, DPW Director

Gary Palmer, Truro Board of Health

Kathie Meads, Water Department Secretary Meeting was tape recorded.

Also Attending:

Tom Merritt

Fred E. Sateriale

Public Statements:

Custodio Silva called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. and asked for any public statements. There were no statements to the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on June 15, 1999 and approved them. The **motion** to approve was made by David Perry. Seconded by John Cicero. Vote to approve the minutes as presented 3-0.

Water Superintendent Update:

August Pumpage:

Craig Wiegand handed the Board a written update on current projects of the Water Department (copy attached). The Superintendent informed the Board that the water pumpage for the month of August 1999 was 5,282,000 gallons less than August 1998. Craig discussed the drought conditions this past summer with no substantial rainfall in July and August and the increase in tourism this summer. Considering these conditions, Craig feels we have made substantial progress in locating our unaccounted for water. Over Labor Day weekend the system pumped 88,000 gallons less than the Labor Day weekend in 1998.

Truro 10" Water Main Project:

The project continues to progress in a timely fashion. Although the project had been put on hold last June due to the unexpected expense of police details in Truro, the rust problem along the 10" line continued to grow worse for Truro customers still hooked into the old line. In August Craig decided to continue the project and negotiate with Truro on this added expense. To date 44 of the 71 known services have been changed over to the newer line. The project will cost our department approximately \$48,000. If the project had been done by an independent contractor, it would have cost the Water Department \$150,000. Craig had high words of praise for his crew and the caliber of the work they have performed in the last several weeks. Truro has agreed to defer the Provincetown tax bill which is approximately \$14,000 until FY 2001. However, in FY 2001 we will have to pay both the FY 2000 and the FY 2001 taxes in one year.

Science Fair:

Craig informed the Board of his plans for a science fair on January 15th and 16th 2000. The fair will be conducted for the Provincetown and Truro elementary schools and the High School. He hopes to have a scholarship available for the winner of the fair.

Fire Hydrants on Beach Point:

The Truro Fire Department has offered the Provincetown Water Department \$5,000 for installation of fire hydrants along Shore Road. We have also begun a system-wide repainting of our hydrants.

Atkins Mayo Water Site:

The Board was informed that Craig has spoken with Haley & Ward, our engineers, and DEP regarding the feasibility of utilizing the Atkins Mayo site as a wellfield with the new treatments which are available. The issue is being looked at now because of the proposed Route 6 median strip use as a leaching field for treated septage.

Craig Wiegand suggested that the Board set a regular meeting date for each month. He suggested the second Tuesday

of each month.

The Board generally agreed to this schedule, however, John Cicero mentioned that he may be stepping down soon. Custodio Silva mentioned that the Town Clerk has advertised several times for Water & Sewer Board members to no avail. Therefore, the Town Moderator has been charged with making appointments to the Board. We hope this will happen shortly.

Although the second Tuesday of the month was generally agreed to, there appears to be a conflict with October and the meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of October (October 19th).

David Guertin Update on Whalewatch Drive:

David Guertin supplied the Board with the most current position of our Town Counsel and Town Manager on the Whalewatch Drive situation. Town Counsel advises that the final decision on Whalewatch Drive water applications will be with the Provincetown Water & Sewer Board. David Guertin deferred to Gary Palmer as spokesman for the Truro position.

Gary Palmer explained that the Truro Board of Health had sent a memo dated July 8, 1999 to the Truro Board of Selectmen outlining their conditional approval of the hook-up of the two properties under purchase-and-sale agreement with the clear understanding that this action is being taken solely to hold the parties to the sale of lots in question blameless with respect to the availability of the Provincetown Water System. However, this recommendation is for the two individual lots specified and those lots alone. Any additional requests for hookups within the subdivision must comply with the hookup rules that are now in place. That is, only if the property owner is unable to obtain potable water by means of a well will a future hookup be granted. It is the stated policy of this Board (Truro Board of Health) that proximity to a main or spur line of the Provincetown Water System is not in and of itself sufficient reason to grant a hookup.

Gary Palmer briefed the Board further on his understanding that the applicant was agreeable to using the well on the property for a flushing well. Further that he understood that the second property owner is planning on installing a well and may not be applying at all.

The two lots the Truro Board of Health has recommended for hookup are 7 Whalewatch Drive, Truro map 24 parcel 31 (application is before the Water & Sewer Board today-Merritt) and 5 Whalewatch Drive, Truro map 24 parcel 30.

Gary Palmer allowed Kathie to copy the Truro Board of Health memo for the Merritt application file since the Water Department did not have a copy (attached).

Custodio asked if potable water is available in that area. Mr. Palmer responded that it was.

APPLICATIONS FOR WATER HOOKUP:

7 Whalewatch Drive, North Truro-Merritt:

The applicant for 7 Whalewatch Drive attended the meeting.

John Cicero made a **motion** to approve the application for 7 Whalewatch Drive contingent on the language quoted from the last paragraph of the Truro Board of Health memo dated July 8, 1999 and addressed to the Truro Board of Selectmen:

“Therefore we believe it is in the best interest of all parties to recommend the hookup of the two properties under purchase-and-sale agreement with the clear understanding that this action is being taken solely to hold the parties to the sale of lots in question blameless with respect to the availability of the Provincetown Water System. However this recommendation is for the two individual lots specified and those lots alone (lots at 7 Whalewatch Drive & 5 Whalewatch Drive). Any additional requests for hookups within the subdivision must comply with the hookup rules that are now in place. That is, only if the property owner is unable to obtain potable water by means of a well will a future hookup be granted. It is the stated policy of this Board (Truro Board of Health) that proximity to a main or spur line of the Provincetown Water System is not in and of itself sufficient reason to grant hookup.”

This motion was seconded by David Perry. Vote in favor of approving the hookup at 7 Whalewatch Drive 3-0.

445 Shore Road, North Truro – Caron:

Neither the applicant nor his representative was present.

Discussion on this application was requested by the Chairman. Kathie mentioned that although the applicant was not present, Ms Caron had called the Water Dept Office on Friday to be sure that the application would be heard at today’s meeting. During the course of that phone conversation she asked Kathie if we had received a copy of their revised septic plan approval for four bedrooms just in case they want to put up a cottage in the future. Kathie informed her that they did receive the plan for the 4 bedroom septic approval, however, the application is for a single family home and not for two buildings no matter what the septic approval is for. Kathie told the Board that she wanted to make that point clear in order to avoid any misunderstanding in the future. If the Carons decide to build another unit on that lot, they will have to go through the water application process with Truro again as this would constitute an expansion of service.

David Perry made a **motion** to approve the application for a single family residence only at 445 Shore Road in North Truro. The motion was seconded by John Cicero. Vote in favor 3-0.

ABATEMENT APPEALS:

1. David Maurer, 89 Bradford Street Account #4008

Applicant was not present. The Board read the applicant’s letter dated July 6, 1999.

No action was taken by the Board

2. Beach Point Realty Trust (Sateriale Trustee), 698 Commercial St. Account #7113

Mr. Fred E. Sateriale was present.

Custodio Silva allowed Mr. Sateriale to address the Board on his denial of a water abatement for the above property. Mr. Sateriale assured the Board that he and his plumber worked diligently to secure the leak once it was found. David Perry asked what the abatement policy was for leaks of this nature. Kathie explained that every account is treated the same way. The last 3 non-leaking years' use is averaged. The cost computed and then doubled. The account is abated back to the 200% figure. The abatement, however, was denied because it was not over 200 % of normal use on that account. John Cicero says that he thinks this policy for the larger users should be revisited when we review the abatement procedures for the Water Rules & Regulations later this year. David Perry made a **motion** to stand by the Department's denial of a leak abatement based on the policy now being enforced for all accounts. John Cicero seconded the motion. Vote in favor of upholding the Department's denial of an abatement 2-0 (John Cicero abstained).

3. Prince of Whales Trust, 104 Shore Road, North Truro, Account #9000192

Mr. Fred E. Sateriale was present.

Custodio Silva again allowed Mr. Sateriale to address the Board on his denial of a water abatement for this account. Mr. Sateriale explained that they had investigated the leaks and repaired what they believe are all the leaks. However, there is a high occupancy rate at the property right now and it is difficult to tell if there is still water leaking or if it is just use.

John Cicero asked to see a history on this account which Kathie provided. A general discussion took place on the status of the line and since the question of whether or not the line is still leaking could not be resolved at this time, John Cicero made a **motion** to table this request to review the abatement denial until more information is available. Custodio seconded the motion. There was some discussion and Custodio suggested that we try to get the information on this account as soon as possible not necessarily waiting for the property to be vacated. Craig agreed to work with Mr. Sateriale on this and get it resolved. Vote to table the reconsideration of Prince of Whales abatement denial (in favor of tabling)

3-0. Mr. Sateriale left the meeting.

4. The Board reviewed a review of the letter from Highland Acres Condo Association dated May 1999. No one from Highland Acres was present. No action was taken.

Mr. Gary Palmer left the meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting of the Water & Sewer Board will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Meeting adjourned by Custodio Silva, Jr. at 2:50 p.m..