

Provincetown Water & Sewer Board of Selectmen
December 13, 1999
Grace Gouveia Building

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In Attendance:

Custodio J. Silva, Jr. Chairman
James Buckingham
Giovanni (John) Cicero
Craig Wiegand, Water Superintendent
David Guertin, DPW Director
Michael Fernandes
Kathie Meads, Water Department Secretary

PUBLIC STATEMENTS:

- Custodio Silva called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and asked for public statements. No public statements were made.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- The minutes of the December 6, 1999 meeting were approved in a **motion** made by James Buckingham and seconded by John Cicero. Vote to accept the minutes as written 3-0.

REVIEW OF WATER DEPARTMENT FY 01 BUDGET:

- Custodio opened the budget meeting agenda item by stating that he was of the opinion that the Finance Committee should see all the information the Department can produce to support its budget proposal. The Town Manager will have some information, but we should be prepared to backup any requests that we are making in both the operating and the capital budgets.

“A” Section of the Operating Budget:

Some discussion was given to the fact that Craig’s position appears to be the lowest paid Superintendent’s position on the Cape. The Board is interested in finding out more information on what other Superintendents are making with similar responsibilities. Jim Buckingham stressed the need for Massachusetts Drinking Supply Operator’s license as an important qualification for running any water department. Public Safety is involved with these licenses and the holder of the license is answerable not only at the Town level but at the State level as well.

John Cicero pointed out that this is a contract negotiation item between Craig and the Town Manager however, he supports any increase which may be due for Craig’s position. Jim Buckingham asked who set the salary for Craig’s position, the Town or the State. David Guertin produced the Town Meeting Article book from last April which indicated that the salary was set by the Town not the State. John Cicero made a **motion** to research the salaries and the procedure for the Town Manager to follow to increase the Water Superintendent’s salary and make it comparable with other superintendents on the Cape. Custodio seconded the motion Vote in favor of researching the salaries of water superintendents 3-0.

There was more discussion surrounding the line item for clerical help line 5114. The Town Manager did not support the additional grade 5 billing clerk position that was asked for under the departmental budget request. John Cicero felt that the Board should go along with Keith’s recommendation but the other members of the Board said that they would support additional help in the office due to the increase workload on the present help and the request by administration to add another meter reading and new billing system. A vote was taken by a **motion** from Jim Buckingham and seconded by Custodio Silva to support the budget line item with the inclusion of the additional clerical position \$90,886. Vote in favor 2-1 with Custodio Silva and Jim Buckingham in favor and John Cicero against.

After some further review of the “A” budget line items, a **motion** was made by Jim Buckingham and seconded by

Custodio Silva to approve the “A” budget at \$321,203 as was presented not at the \$293,798 amount recommended by the Town Manager. Vote in favor to approve at \$321,203 2-1. John Cicero voted against.

John Cicero wanted to vote line item by line item and Custodio agreed that this could be done. The “B” budget began and the reduction of the line item called capital outlay other (line item 5782) was discussed. The Water Department had asked for \$50,000 in this line where \$53,279 was appropriated last year. Craig presented his case that Keith’s recommendation to reduce this line to \$10,000 did not make him feel comfortable about next year’s operations. It is not known at this time why Keith has recommended this reduction.

John Cicero made a **motion** to have another meeting and get some clarification from Keith on why he feels this reduction in line item 5782 is warranted. The motion was seconded by Jim Buckingham. Vote in favor of having another meeting on the budget 3-0.

APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL FERNANDES TO THE WATER & SEWER BOARD:

John Cicero expressed his concern that some people have been using conservation as a forum for discrimination and he hoped that Mr. Fernandes would consider this in his actions as a Water & Sewer Board member. With that, John Cicero made a **motion** to accept Michael Fernandes as a new member of the Provincetown Water & Sewer Board. The motion was seconded by Jim Buckingham. Vote in favor of the appointment of Mr. Fernandes to the Water & Sewer Board 3-0.

Custodio Silva adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. A date for the next meeting was not set.