

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY – FEBRUARY 11, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.  
JUDGE WELSH ROOM - 260 COMMERCIAL STREET**

Chairman Donegan convened the open meeting at 5:00 p.m. noting the following attendees:  
Board of Selectmen members: Thomas Donegan, Cheryl Andrews, and Robert Anthony.

Excused: Raphael Richter & Erik Yingling

Other attendees: Town Manager David Panagore, Assistant Town Manager David Gardner, DPW Director Richard Waldo, Water Superintendent Cody Salisbury, Truro Town Administrator Rae Ann Palmer, and the Truro Board of Selectmen: Chairman Paul Wisotzky, Jay Coburn, Jan Worthington, Maureen Burgess, and Robert Weinstein and Truro Health Conservation Agent Patricia Pajaron.

Recorder: Loretta Dougherty

**1. Joint Meeting with Truro Board of Selectmen:**

**A. Water System Update:**

Chairman Tom Donegan welcomed the members from the Truro Board of Selectmen. Truro Board of Selectmen Chairman Paul Wisotzky called the Board to order at 5:02 p.m. and members were introduced. Superintendent Cody Salisbury and DPW Director Rich Waldo appeared to present a PowerPoint presentation on the Water System Status Update. This presentation may be found on the Town's web page [www.provincetown-ma.gov](http://www.provincetown-ma.gov) under the Water Department.

Superintendent Cody Salisbury last presented a water system update to the Boards in 2013. Highlights from the presentation given were as follows: The Town of Provincetown Water Department maintains a total of three ground water resources located in the Town of Truro: the Knowles Crossing Wellfield consisting of three gravel packed wells; the Paul Daley Wellfield consisting of six active gravel packed wells, and the North Union Field Well Site consisting of two gravel packed well. The distribution system consists of approximately 42 miles of water mains; two water storage tanks; 250 fire hydrants; 675 gate values, and we have 3,725 services accounts. The year 2015 was the first full calendar year that the Knowles Crossing Water Treatment Plant, located at 143 Shore Road in North Truro had been in operation. Both the Knowles Crossing Wellfield and the Paul Daley Wellfield are treated at this facility, primarily for iron and manganese removal. During the 2014 and 2015 peak seasons, the treatment facility operated flawlessly and in recent laboratory reports show continued removal of all detectable levels of iron and manganese in the source water.

The cleaning of the Mt. Gilboa tank was done last year; prior cleaning was done in 2005. The interior of the tank was found to be in remarkable condition. There was no coating failure on the inside and needs no future interior maintenance for quite some time. It took approximately 2,900,000 gallons to refill the Mt. Gilboa tank after draining it for the maintenance work. The overall annual withdrawal from all sources for 2015 was 257,542,581 gallons which was an increase of 22,332,420 gallons over 2014. The overall annual daily average withdrawal was 705,596 gallons per day; the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) permit is restricted to an annual daily withdrawal of 850,000 gallons per day. This increase was mainly attributed to leakage

throughout the system. We have an aggressive leak detection process which has significantly reduced Unaccounted-for-Water (UAW) in recent years. In 2015 water mains were found to be leaking. One leak was caused by a PVC leaking into the ground. Above the PVC was an abandoned cast iron main which was smashed and not capped off properly that was acting as a drainage passage way so the water never surfaced. In October we had a water main leak created by a circumferential crack that had been leaking for quite some time. The Massachusetts Rural Water Association has provided support for the Water Department with leak surveying; most recently in January of 2016. The Provincetown Water Department has begun isolating portions of the distribution system while watching, in real-time, a flow meter located at the Mt. Gilboa tank. This effort helps identify specific areas in the system which may be experiencing leakage. The Water Department has been monitoring for several years, during the off-season, the early morning flow information by zones between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. which is typically the lowest demand hours of a day. Based upon historical trends, the majority of the observed flow rate between these hours is attributed to leakage, some of which is metered and some not metered. As leaks are repaired, it is reflected in the flow rates.

Truro Selectman Jay Coburn asked how the difference is calculated between the demand for water and the unaccounted for water.

The Water Department knows how much water is sold and how much is produced based upon information from our meters, and there is a small amount of water used for firefighting, street sweeping, and water main flushing. The amount left over is the unaccounted for water. We do lose approximately 13 million gallons in the process.

Jay asked where that water goes.

Cody stated it goes back into the well field and filters back down. He shared the scheduled water rates; these have been the same since 2009.

Tom talked about operating expenses and mentioned that we are spending a lot of money for the summer demand. We may not be fully covering the summer demand with our peak season; it would be against summer usage rather than winter usage.

Truro Selectman Paul Wisotzky asked Cody if he has noticed any trends for the summer versus off season usage.

Cody referred to the PowerPoint which showed the trends as being flat for about the last 10 years. In overall meter consumption December, January, and February over the past four years have remained pretty flat.

Tom stated that we saw the month of September as being greater than June for the first time last year.

Jay stated that he would personally be in favor of shifting the burden to the summer consumers which would be consistent with other policy issues they have considered. Truro is in a slightly different position in funding the water system management plan. The majority of the taxpayers are not directly benefiting from the water system. As much as the improvements associated with the water system can be born through the water enterprise fund that would certainly be their preference.

**B. Discussion of Draft of Inter-Municipal Agreement:**

Paul W. stated they had looked at this at their last Board of Selectmen meeting and thanked David P. and our shared Town Counsel for putting it together.

**MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement, as submitted.**

**Motion: Cheryl Andrews**

**Seconded: Robert Anthony**

**3/0/0 Motion passed.**

Truro Selectman Jay Coburn made a motion to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement, as submitted with a second by Selectman Maureen Burgess. The motion passed by a vote of 5/0/0.

**C. Discussion of Legislative Agenda (Home Rule Petition):**

Tom asked if there was anything that can be done in the next month regarding our Home Rule Petitions before the Legislature.

Jay stated that they have a very busy agenda on Beacon Hill and we may be faced with a new Senator next year. He suggested that both Boards request Representative Peake to set up a meeting with Speaker DeLeo and invite other towns within Representative Peake's district to attend this meeting. A new bill was introduced a month ago by Senator Wolfe and a Boston delegation to address cities that are facing a surge in AirBnBs.

Tom will send a letter asking for the meeting.

Paul suggested that one Board member from each town on the Cape go to Boston.

Cheryl commented on the extent of the number of homes in Provincetown that are rented out and are now being viewed as commercial activity which is outside of our zoning bylaws. She had nothing specifically in mind at present but wanted to get feedback as to what Truro is doing now. Do people generally accept this practice in all of their zones?

Paul stated that he has not heard anything. Their zoning is very different. There is not much commercial zoning and they have a very small condo community which is not seasonal. Vacation rentals are single family homes and he has heard no feedback from anyone objecting to it in any neighborhoods or by their neighbors. They do see the need to figure out a way to capture the revenue and believe that it is also a fairness issue as it relates to their bed and breakfast and motel establishments.

Without objection Tom adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by: Loretta Dougherty