



ABINGTON WATER DEPARTMENT

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COMMISSIONERS

STEVEN D. BRADBURY
CHAIRMAN

JOHN E. WARNER II
SECRETARY

RICHARD D. MUNCEY

DANIEL F. CALLAHAN
SUPERINTENDENT

ABINGTON BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

The Abington Board of Water Commissioners held a meeting on December 7, 2009 at 6:04 p.m. at the Abington Town Hall, 500 Gliniewicz Way, Abington, MA. Present were the following Commissioners:

Steven D. Bradbury, Chairman
John E. Warner, II, Secretary
Richard D. Muncey

Also:
Daniel F. Callahan, Superintendent
JoAnne Hall, Administrative Assistant

The following officials from the Town of Abington were in attendance at the meeting:

Chris Aiello, Board of Selectman
R. Andrew Burbine, Board of Selectmen
Barbara Cristoforo, Finance Committee
Theresa Maze, Finance Committee

Jack Pistorino, Deputy Assessor
Leo Provost, Treasurer Collector
Tony Sulmonte, Town Accountant

Mr. Callahan stated the purpose of the meeting is to address the budget shortfall of two hundred and sixty seven thousand dollars (\$267,000.00). Mr. Callahan stated the FY2010 Budget was approved for two hundred and sixty seven thousand dollars (\$267,000.00) more the FY2009 Receipts. Mr. Callahan stated the tank project and the building project have been delayed and the sludge lagoon project is running behind schedule. Mr. Callahan proposed three options: the first option to decrease the FY2010 Budget by two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00), the second option to transfer the money from water reserve and the third option to raise the water rate from \$3.15 to \$4.40. The rate increase will be realized for two quarters and not four quarters. Mr. Callahan suggested the new rate be effective from September 1, 2009 thru March 1, 2009, for billings from December 2009 thru May 2010. As of March 1, 2010 the rate would return to the \$3.15 for the June billing. For receipts collected in FY2011, the rate would remain at \$3.15 and increase to probably \$3.75 or \$3.80 for FY2012. Mr. Callahan stated the intent of the Board has always been to keep the rate as low as possible.

Mr. Sulmonte stated he is hearing an undertone that the Department of Revenue is unrealistic. Mr. Sulmonte stated nothing other than town meeting can change an approved budget. Last year the water department receipts were sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) short and Mr. Callahan provided a letter that was submitted to the Department of Revenue. Mr. Sulmonte stated it was an error by the water department in not addressing the matter at the fall special town meeting. Mr. Sulmonte stated he has been here for nine years and Mr. Callahan that long also. Mr. Sulmonte stated Mr. Provost, Mr. Pistorino and himself know what they are doing. The revenue must meet the appropriations. Mr. Sulmonte stated you get things in order at the Special Town Meeting so the Department of Revenue can set the tax rate. Mr. Sulmonte stated Mr. Provost, Mr. Pistorino and himself do their jobs and always make themselves available to answer questions.

Ms. Cristoforo asked for clarification, stating the transfer was not done at town meeting? Mr. Callahan replied, yes. Mr. Bradbury stated this is a learning curve for everyone.

Mr. Callahan stated for the first time in his twenty years of experience in the business, the receipts were short last year. Mr. Callahan stated he did provided a letter to Mr. Sulmonte regarding the sixty thousand dollar shortfall. On November 24, 2009 he was informed the letter was for the Department of Revenue. Mr. Callahan stated he thought the letter was for the accountant. Mr. Callahan stated if Mr. Sulmonte had brought it had brought to his attention in September, we could have taken care of it at the fall town meeting. Mr. Callahan stated he now knows the budget can not be more than the anticipated receipts.

Mr. Sulmonte stated he wants to be real clear as to what is required of the town accountant and it is not the town accountant's responsibility to make sure the water and sewer budgets are in order. Mr. Sulmonte stated he feels he was very clear on the purpose and destination of last year's letter and that he always over explains himself, which is just something he does. Mr. Sulmonte stated he does not know why Mr. Callahan is unclear or has forgotten to whom the letter was going to.

Mr. Bradbury stated he is not looking to put blame. He stated he does not know a lot about the Department of Revenue but has been told it is very difficult to deal with the town's representative due to a language barrier. Mr. Bradbury suggests a forum with the department heads.

Joe Shea, an Abington resident stated it does not matter who you deal with at the Department of Revenue, the answer will be the same, the funding source must cover the expenses. Mr. Shea stated he dealt with the same issue twenty two years ago and after numerous visits to the Department of Revenue, the rates had to be raised. Mr. Shea stated you must prove the revenue meets the budgets for water and sewer.

Mr. Callahan stated there is two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) in the FY2010 not being spent.

Mr. Bradbury stated the Board of Assessors had indicated the Department of Revenue may push the deadline from the end of December until the end of January to set the tax rate. Mr. Pistorino stated the Board of Assessors has not heard anything further regarding that matter. Mr. Bradbury stated he understands the town can not take that chance.

Mr. Sulmonte stated he is always available for training in the recap sheet or anything else.


Mr. Muncey motioned to raise the water rate to \$4.40/100 cubic feet from September 1, 2009 thru March 1, 2010, two billing cycles and reduce the rate to the existing rate on March 1, 2010. Mr. Warner seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.

Mr. Sulmonte stated the Department of Revenue will require a letter from the Board regarding the rate increase which shows the math as to how the new rate was derived.

Attendees were thanked for their input.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Abington Town Hall, 500 Gliniewicz Way, Abington, MA.

Mr. Muncey motioned to adjourn this portion of the suspended meeting at 6:36 p.m. Mr. Warner seconded the motion and it was unanimously accepted.



John E. Warner II, Secretary
Date: 2-10