

Minutes of Williamsburg Water/Sewer Commission
May 19, 2010

Members of the Water/Sewer Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 @ 7:00 P.M. The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order and upon roll call the following were present: William Turner-Vice-Chairman, James Hyslip, Howard Sanderson, Ken Taylor-Clerk, & Brenda Lessard, Secretary.

Public Present: Peter Kennedy, Eric Cerreta, Dee Dee & Gary Niswonger, & Chuck Edwards.

1. Motion made by Howard Sanderson to accept minutes from 5/5/10. Seconded by Jim Hyslip. So voted.
2. Motion made by Jim Hyslip to accept and pay warrants for 5/12/10. Seconded by Ken Taylor. So voted.
3. Eric Cerreta was in about his water & sewer bill. He cannot afford the bill which is over \$4000.00. He found a leak underground leading to his garage. He would also like to know if there is technology available to detect where the leak is. The pipe is plastic with brass fittings. Bill Turner will inquire with Mass Rural Water and suggested to Mr. Cerreta to put in a pressure reducing valve. Motion made by Ken Taylor to abate the sewer portion of the bill to an average of his usual usage and to table the water part of the bill until the next meeting. Seconded by Howard Sanderson. So voted. The Board wants to discuss the issue of the water part of the bill with the Chairman.
4. Peter Kennedy was in to speak about his water & sewer bill. The bill has been erratic for the last several billings. The meter showed no change from the previous reading in the fall so his bill was estimated. Mr. Kennedy feels that the estimate is too high. The head of the meter needs to be changed. He stated that he has owned the home for three years. It is a two family home but currently only has one person in each unit. Bill Turner will look into his average usage with the Town Collector. He will also go in to change the head on the meter.
5. Gary & DeeDee Niswonger were in to talk about their water & sewer bill. They also received a bill in excess of \$4000.00. Mr. Niswonger took a reading this day and it was 094347. He stated that Mr. Kellogg had been up to the house and the meter seemed to be working properly. They feel there must be a leak near the garden and questioned whether there was a leak prior to the fall billing. The previous bill was up slightly. They have turned off the water to the garden since November. Motion made by Ken Taylor to abate the sewer portion of the bill to an average of their usage. And to table the water portion of the bill until the Board talks with the Chairman. Seconded by Jim Hyslip. So voted.
6. Board signed an abatement for LaFontaine on South Street for their water & sewer bill. The bill had been estimated due to an inability to get a reading due to wood being piled in the way. Bill Turner went up and got a reading. The wood has been moved.
7. Motion made by Jim Hyslip to abated the Brewery at Brewmaster's Tavern 30% for their sewer bill. Seconded by Howard Sanderson. So voted and the abatement was signed.
8. Chuck Edwards was in. The inspections of the cross connections are done. There was only one failure. Brenda will give the bills to the Collector to send out. M. J. Moran's backflow preventor was approved. Chuck also spoke about the need to put in back flow preventers on the gardens in the center of Williamsburg, the grange hall, and the general store where water is used to water the Angel Park and the Veteran's Memorial. Bill Turner will speak to the Selectmen about splitting the cost between the Water Commission and the Town.
9. Motion made by Ken Taylor to table signing O'Brien's abatement for water and sewer until Bill talked with the Collector. Seconded by Jim Hyslip. So voted.

10. Jim Hyslip discussed what a GPS does and how accurate they are. The Commission would like to have the Town mapped out with GIS so that all water and sewer lines can be on a central program. It would work in conjunction with the Highway Department & the Board of Assessors. The cost for a cheaper, less accurate model would be around \$3500.00 with \$500-\$1500 for software. There is a better device which would be around \$7000.00 The cost for an antennae would be around \$12000.00 to \$20000.00. Northampton has a CORS system with a base station. The Board will look further into this.
11. Jim Hyslip talked about the Unquomonk Dam. There is a tree that needs to be removed at some point. The lower fence needs work and mowing will need to be done yearly. Other than that the inspection of the dam is on a ten year cycle. The Board would like to talk to Open Space or Woodland Trails in the future about using the space for recreation.
12. Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ken Taylor. Seconded by Jim Hyslip. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
Brenda Lessard, Secretary

CLERK: _____