

**Minutes
Of
The Foxboro Water and Sewer Commissioners
January 4, 2011**

Members in Attendance: Vice Chairman M. Stanton, Clerk W. Euerle, Superintendent L. Potter, Water and Sewer Employee Mike Walker and Neil Kaiser as an interested citizen

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

At 7:05 the Board went into Executive Session.

At 7:15 p.m. the Board resumed regular session.

The minutes of October 26, 2010 both regular and executive session, November 9th, November 16th and November 23rd were reviewed.

The minutes of December 7th, December 14th and December 21st will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Board met with Mr. Walker and Mr. Kaiser. Mr. Walker stated that the Town Manager asked for cost savings ideas at his recent presentation to combine the Highway and Water and Sewer Departments into a Department of Public Works. Mr. Walker noted that a lot of his presentation was based on savings for snow plowing, he thinks the figure used was raw data that needs more research and further discussion. The other towns with DPW's that were referred too have always been DPW's and not separate departments merged together. He feels that there is a lot more that needs to be taken into account before any talks of a merger can take place. There needs to be someone in the Superintendent's position to run the water department. He also contends that water department money will be used for highway department trucks and feels that a salary comparison needs to be done.

M. Stanton said that Mr. Walker's points are well taken and that he is concerned with the integrity of the department. W. Euerle has issues with the proposed cost savings also, but he does agree that the town needs a P. E. on staff.

Mr. Kaiser stated that he worked for the water department when he was younger. He feels that there is a big difference between the Highway and Water Departments and having one person in charge of both departments will be a real downfall for the town. Both departments have worked together in the past on such things as pipe breaks and opening and closing roads.

M. Stanton stated that the water department will always be in charge of the 125 miles of pipes and water quality for the town. He also doesn't believe that the Water Enterprise account can be used for Highway work or equipment.

L. Potter stated that these are the examples of the fears of the workforce; that they will have to make concessions.

W. Euerle supports that idea of combining departments if that's what it takes to get an engineering department. He does have concerns with having one director in charge of both

departments and also working some hours for Plainville. He cannot picture one individual being able to complete all the water responsibilities by spending only 1/2 to a 1/3 of his time when the current superintendent spends all his time on water responsibilities and still doesn't have enough time to do all the tasks required by the state. While the Board agrees with some of the positions taken by Mr. Walker and Mr. Kaiser, and does not agree with all of their positions, the Board thanked them both for their input.

Another person will still be needed to replace the Superintendent; the current assistant may not be interested in doing the whole job.

L. Potter stated that the state requires someone with the licenses and knowledge to run the system and file state reports.

The Board's proposed budget will be less than last year's budget. The Town Manager has recommended a rate study be done also.

The meeting with Advisory will be on January 12th and the Capital Budget meeting will be on March 5th.

A motion to approve payment to Mansfield for the second quarter in the amount of \$198,987.06 was approved 2-0.

L. Potter informed the Board that the attorney is still working on the agreement with the landowner, Mr. Vacca of 10-12 Wall Street. Time is of the essence, if there is another failure, it needs to be replaced, not repaired.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Gray

These minutes of January 5, 2011 were approved as amended on April 5, 2011.


William Euerle, Clerk