Board of Sewer Commissioners
Minutes of August 2, 2011
Bourne Veteran's Building
Buzzards Bay MA 02532

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TA Guerino

John Ford, Chairman
Don Pickard, Vice Chairman
Peter Meier, Clerk
Jamie Sloniecki
Earl Baldwin

List of documents:
None

Meeting called to order
6:20 pm

Commission Reorganization
Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Sloniecki to nominate Earl Baldwin as Chairman of the Sewer Commissioners. VOTE 5-0.

Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Sloniecki to nominate Peter Meier as Vice Chairman of the Sewer Commissioners. VOTE 5-0.

Sloniecki MOVED and SECONDED by Meier to nominate John Ford as Clerk of the Sewer Commissioners. VOTE 5-0.

Minutes
Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Sloniecki to approve minutes of 6/07/11 as amended. VOTE 5-0.

Set rates (use and overage) for 2011/2012
Due to the fund analysis from Finance Director, the Town is able to keep rates based on budget and projected income level at $734.

2011 Estimated $273,000 Wareham Operating Charge takes into account all operating expenses. Said number will vacillate up or down a bit.

To raise Enterprise Fund revenue on Sewer users, it would require a Special Town Meeting vote.

Ford MOVED and SECONDED by Sloniecki to approve the set rates for 2011/2012 at $734. VOTE 5-0.

Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Sloniecki to approve the water overage rates of .010 for every gallon of water in excess of 45,000. VOTE 5-0.

Meet with Buzzards Bay Water District (BBWD)
Louis Langton was before the Board back in June looking for a way to separate water used to water his lawn, and sewer overages. The BOSC suggested looking into installing a separate water meter or installing a private well. Mr. Langton has since discussed with the BBWD and was told no outside meters allowed, but suggested he put in a well which is costly.

Robert Ethier, Chairman of BBWD said there are reasons why don't allow a single dwelling an outside meter.

Barry Woods, District Superintendent of BBWD said there are 900 accounts. To entertain an outside separate meter, it would be about 700 meters which would impact their annual report. DEP is not allowing non essential use (residential lawn irrigation, vehicle washing). The issue is to encourage conservation of water for Buzzards Bay. Mr. Woods directs customers to go to the Town to see how the rates are developed as he has no knowledge of such information.

Ford said when BBWD increased revenues to decrease usage, the cost of the year doubled. Average water bills increased $1 - $10 in six (6) months. The rate increase was directed to the BBWD by their consultant mostly to keep district running and need revenue infrastructure updated. TA Guerino said if there were outflow meters on potentially approximately 700 meters, the sewer use would go down, fixed cost to Wareham would stay the same and the sewer rates would rise substantially. Reduce the flow through the system, the $273 rate would remain the same for the next couple of years and with two (2) employees. There is not a true fair mechanism.

Mr. Langton is in support of increasing fees (thereby decreasing usage). TA Guerino said he would then be using the 30,000 gallons calculation vs. the 45,000 gallons. Mr. Langton questioned if the Town could look at his usage from May – September, but was told it would be hard to differentiate as the Town has summer residents.

Ford suggested for the future, if a resident wants to irrigate their lawn, residents could look into a private well.

Adjournment
Meier MOVED and SECONDED by Sloniecki to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm. UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Groezinger, sec.