

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MINUTES OF

November 13, 2018

Buzzards Bay Water District 15 Wallace Ave. Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

MINUTES

Present:

Joseph Carrara, Chairman
Wendy Chapman, Commissioner
Robert, Ethier, Commissioner
Jennifer Kelson, Treasurer
Wayne Perkins, Crew Chief
Steven Souza, Superintendent
Barry Woods, Admin. Support
Peter Meier, Selectman/Resident
Bruce Cabral, Assessor, Town of Bourne

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Carrara, Chairman at 4:00 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes dated 10/9/18

Robert Ethier made a MOTION to approve the minutes dated 10/9/18. Wendy Chapman seconded that motion, and all in favor. All three commissioners agreed, "aye."

Approval of October 2018 Commitment

The commitment was signed and approved by all commissioners at an earlier time.

New Business: Discussion and Vote on 2019 Bourne Tax Rate

The Board accepted Bruce Cabral, Assessor of Bourne, recommendation to retain one unified tax rate for FY19. Robert Ethier made a MOTION to accept the recommendation to keep one unified tax rate. Wendy Chapman seconded that motion, and all in favor. All three commissioners agreed, "aye."

Bruce Cabral stated that the tax rate for Buzzards Bay, although not final yet, should be around .54 which is significantly less than FY18 due to the increase in valuation of land, the incoming hotel, and home prices.

Further discussion was had regarding property taxes. Wendy Chapman asked Bruce Cabral if he knew how much property in Buzzards Bay does not get taxed. She stated that non-profits do not pay taxes. Bruce responded that he would need to analyze his data and get back to her with an answer.

New Business: Discuss the Lien process

Wendy explained that the District places liens on property when they do not pay their water bills. We send the liens over to town hall. She stated that she was told by town hall that liens disappear as soon as the town takes possession of those properties. Her concern is that Buzzards Bay Water District will never recoup those lost funds from liens. Bruce Cabral asked how often does a situation like this happen? Wendy Chapman responded that she was uncertain and that she gathered her information from the Treasurer at town hall. Bruce Cabral said he was unsure of the procedure and not certain what our recourse would be with the town. Robert Ethier suggested we ask legal counsel.

Superintendents Report

Presented by Steven Souza and accepted by the board.

Treasurers Report

Presented by Jennifer Kelson and accepted by the board.

Any business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours None

Commissioners comments/select next meeting date

Wendy Chapman had questions about the rate study that was conducted last year. She discussed how a disproportionate amount of money is being passed on to the residents of Buzzards Bay since non-profits do not pay taxes. She also explained that this was not taken into consideration when the rate study was done. She suggested the District consider making a higher tier for the large water users. She suggested that we invite the rate study engineers to a future meeting for further discussion.

Agenda items suggested for next meeting:

1. Tax Rate, Town of Plymouth

The next Board meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 4:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Wendy Chapman made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting 4:50pm. Robert Ethier seconded that motion, and all in favor.

Prepared by:

Jennifer Kelson, Treasurer

Buzzards Bay Water District

