

Wilton Water Commission
February 27, 2014 DRAFT Minutes APPROVED 3/27/14

1 The Wilton Water Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday February 27, 2014 at 6:30 PM
2 in the Town Hall Courtroom. Present were Commissioners - Chairman Tom Schultz and Bill
3 Condra; Water Superintendent Mike Bergeron; Clerk Joanna K Eckstrom; customers Arthur and
4 Virginia Iannacci; Wilton residents Charlie McGettigan, Doug Whitney. The agenda follows:

5 **Call to order** Chairman Schultz called the meeting to order at 6:32 and explained that Commissioner
6 Frank Edelblut was out of town and would not attend tonight's session.

7 **Public Input and Comment** – none offered

8 **Review of Minutes of January 30th meeting** – On a motion by Mr. Condra, seconded by Mr.
9 Schultz, minutes of Jan. 30 were approved as written; unanimous.

10 **Accounts Receivable - billing issues/abatements, YTD income 2014; follow-up 2013 reports:**

11 Mr. Schultz had a letter (to Sewer and Water) from Joan Lemire about property at 10 Main St. She is
12 being billed for 15 units, says there are only 14. At last week's Sewer department meeting, they
13 asked if Mike Bergeron could look into this in both commissions' behalf. Mike will contact Joan
14 Lemire, visit property to count units. Mr. Schultz also had a letter from new owner at Eastview.
15 Further discussion on receivables deferred until later when Jane Farrell could be present.

16 **Accounts Payable – YTD Expenses 2014; follow-up 2013 reports** - Consensus that 2013 P&L is
17 correct. Pam Atwood provided a year to date 2/25/14; labor reported through January. Appears that
18 expenses are under budget. Report also includes income but the town accountant cautioned about
19 misinterpreting these figures; Jane Farrell should clarify actual collections.

20 **Arthur and Virginia Iannacci – Abbot Hill Rd** – recently, Iannacci's were without water for five
21 days because of frozen water line on their property, not a responsibility of WWW. However, for
22 many years, they have had low flow / pressure which various Commissioners tried to address.

23 They came to Commission in June 2013 at which time Mike Bergeron suggested plan to address
24 problem and at same time improve service to two other customers. Mike estimated materials
25 will cost about \$3,300 and labor \$6,700 for a total project cost of \$10,000. (Coincidentally,
26 Iannaccis had a \$20K+ quote from Wetherbee (which includes materials). During the June
27 meeting, *Mr. Edelblut moved that the water department pay up to \$3,300 for materials costs*
28 *(for Iannacci's and other two houses), subject to getting a second bid on materials and labor /*
29 *construction costs being borne entirely by Iannacci's. Motion carried unanimously.*

30 Iannacci's returned to Commission on Sept. 26 to clarify / confirm what exactly commission
31 decided in June – commissioners confirmed that the Water Works would pay up to \$3300 for
32 materials; that labor costs are their (Iannacci's) responsibility; and added that if project is to be
33 done this year, it needs to be done by November 1st (cut-off date for digging on state road).

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34 Mrs. Iannacci explained that when tie-in was offered to the three houses years ago, it was at
35 \$5,000 each; owner of her home chose not to hook up. (All three houses have flow / pressure
36 issues but there is no record of anyone but Iannacci bringing this to WWW attention.) As of
37 today, Iannacci's got other quotes but cost, \$18K-\$20K, is burdensome; some contractors won't
38 quote because of State road. Iannacci's hope the water commission can do something more.

39 Mike Bergeron said quotes are high because of the unknown – will they hit ledge, rocks, etc.
40 Houses were built in 1983; Mike questioned logic of placing the line where it is. When
41 determining cost of a project, materials cost are usually solid; you determine what type of line is
42 needed; labor costs can be more variable dependent upon what is found as project evolves. Mike
43 is still quite certain that his materials cost is on target. Improvement in street needs to go about
44 100 feet to resolve Iannacci issue.

45 Mr. Schultz wants to help Iannacci's but said a three member board should vote. Iannacci's
46 are still responsible to pay for work on their property; when Mr. Schultz asked what is an
47 acceptable (labor) cost for them, Mrs. Iannacci thought \$5,000 (same as original tie-in). Mr.
48 Condra is sensitive to issue and hopes that it can be resolved by a full board. He asked that the
49 Iannacci's be put on the agenda for the March meeting.

50 **Grant follow-up** The generator grant acceptance paperwork has been submitted. Mike will confirm
51 that it has been received in Concord. Ms. Eckstrom will get letter authorizing Mike to act in
52 Commission's behalf for Asset Management Grant prepared for signature ASAP so that acceptance
53 paperwork can be processed.

54 **Dam Engineering update** – TTG Environmental is doing preliminary work on Emergency Action
55 Plan (EAP). THE will do field work as soon as weather permits.

56 Mike got a 'heads-up' call from dam inspector who suggested there be hardy grass on face of dam
57 and that top of dam has divots that could result in a break if there's an overflow. Top should be
58 perfectly flat (no divots) and be 6-foot wide. Mike said these issues would be addressed by HTE.

59 Charlie McGettigan said the dam won't burst due to divots. There's valve in woods that can be
60 (has been) opened to release water. He will take anyone who wants to see location of this valve.

61 There was some discussion about ownership of reservoirs and dams.

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62 **Superintendent Report** Barry Miller has begun repair at Everett well – it is shut down - well is 18”
63 wide, 50 feet deep; parts had to be removed by force. Mike is taking photos of before, during, after
64 this project. Abbot well is handling water needs.

65 Order meters at end of March; money budgeted. Hydrants catered to project; order as needed.

66 There was a broken water line at 5 Defoe Alley – handled via a verbal request. This was an
67 emergency so a verbal request to DPW is okay but per Mr. Condra, it should be documented with a
68 written request.

69 **Water department / public works – relationship** – Tabled until all commissioners present.

70 **Discuss any other business to come before the Board** Mr. Condra announced that his recent CAT
71 scan showed that special med he’s been taking have positive effect.

72 Carry-over from last meeting - Motion Mr. Condra, second Mr Schultz – defer discussion of letter
73 from Selectmen re: Water Works share of costs until next meeting. Unanimous

74 Mr. Schultz addressed a letter from Betsy Castro re: Capital Reserves – records show there are
75 five accounts, including a reserve account for Eastview, a project that is finished. Commission will
76 consolidate into other reserve accounts; money will be taken from two accounts for share of grants.
77 Charlie McGettigan said the reserve account for the Quinn property was a great idea – former
78 commissioner Jim Tuttle was praised for setting this up.

79 Clerk’s offer (via e-mail) to ‘screen’ incoming mail / bills was declined.

80 The Highway Department’s Equipment Rate sheet was entered into the file.

81 **Accounts Receivable - billing issues / abatements, YTD income 2014;** Jane Farrell confirmed that
82 water works income for 2013 was \$246K. Income for February 2014 was \$21K.

83 Jane presented several abatement / waive late charge requests, all of which were approved. She
84 asked about WWW protocol for water payments that are a day late – she will suggest some options
85 for next meeting. Jane also asked about the inconsistency in billing for irrigation systems and
86 backflow devices. She will make recommendations on how to resolve.

87 **Next meeting March 27 2014**

88 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

89 Respectfully submitted,

90 Joanna K Eckstrom, Clerk