

**TRI TOWN BOARD
Of Water Commissioners
Braintree, Holbrook, Randolph
Braintree Town Hall**

MINUTES

April 10, 2014

PRESENT: Chairman, Joseph Sullivan, Mayor, Town of Braintree; Richard Brewer, Town of Randolph, Bill Phelan, Town of Holbrook.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lou Dutton, Barbara Mello, Marlene Michonski, Jim Taggart, Joe Favaloro, Pam Heidel, Michael Hornbrook, Fred Laskey, Rachel Madden, Fred Brandon, Robyn LaFrance, recording secretary.

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 10:00 am.

MINUTES: The minutes of the March 20, 2014 meeting were approved and accepted.

MOTION: By Rich Brewer to accept Minutes of March 20, 2014

SECOND: by Mayor Sullivan

VOTE: 2:0

Infrastructure Grant: Barbara Mello

- Barbara Mello explained the Dam Infrastructure Grant and distributed a draft letter.
- The Board reviewed the draft and after minor edits the Board approved the letter to send on Braintree letterhead.

MOTION: By Rich Brewer to approve the Dam Infrastructure Grant letter and send on Braintree letterhead to Secretary Rick Sullivan.

SECOND: by Bill Phelan

VOTE: Unanimous

Lou Dutton asked the Board to take a Tree Bid vote and it was agreed to put this on the next meeting agenda.

MOTION: By Bill Phelan to enter Executive Session

SECOND: by Rich Brewer

VOTE: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,
Robyn LaFrance
Recording Secretary

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EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

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MWRA: Fred Laskey

- It was noted that the Tri Town Board last met with MWRA on June 20, 2013. Since that last meeting, the only thing that has changed is that the entrance fee is down slightly. Financially, the only change is that interest rates are low at 3-4%. Net assessed value depreciated so entrance fee went down. Rate history on average is 3.4%
- Rachel Madden explained that future projection is 2.8% (FY16 - FY24) for a combined rate of 2.8%. Past 10 years has been a 3.8% rate history.
- Fred Laskey explained a moderate steady 3-4% with no increase on the horizon (FY17 – FY20).
- The only other development since the June 2013 meeting is bond debt. FY15 has not been adopted by the Board so they are using FY14 rates.
- The public process for rate adjustment (all of which is public record) was explained. March and April public hearings are to discuss rate and there is ongoing discussion from the MWRA Board to the MWRA Authority. The rate is then determined at the June meeting.
- 60 or 61 Communities in total are serviced. The average rate is ____ (on their website).
- The additional factor of SouthField was mentioned and the status of discussions between Mayor Sullivan and Mayor Kay of Weymouth.
- Mayors Sullivan and Kay had a meeting 2 months ago and there is no real discussion now.
- Some of what the process will have to be to get water was explained. The preferred way is from MWRA. There are a number of factors involving all future development of SouthField.
- Holbrook likes the idea of MWRA and Holbrook and Randolph have to sign off together or split their current arrangement.
- The Board has a few questions as to what MWRA can do with the entrance fee to get the Tri Town, to get SouthField and Norwood? Can the fee be waived? Can MWRA bring water? Can MWRA build the hook-up?
- It was explained that MWRA worked hard on the concerns of the entrance fees. The pathway is thru the Legislature with regard to the connection and infrastructure. The Legislature is working its way through with special criteria thru SRF principal forgiveness, one on one match subject to appropriations. The consensus is that Tri Town can get an appropriation. It is on a case by case basis.
- There was a question about ramifications on the entrance fee? MWRA debated this several times. Will recommend to the Executive Committee that they look at interest rates of Stoughton and Wilmington. There was a question of entrance fees for Bedford, Wilmington, Dedham and Westwood when all of these came in to the Advisory Board.
- 0% interest loan was mentioned.

- Retail rates up 3.1% last year. Average bill \$331 and \$818 W&S. 3.8% increase over 10 years.
- In the last 10 years, 5 or so have joined/\$20 million.
- There was a question presented as to whether MWRA can waive entrance fee and refund the entrance fee paid in the past by other towns. There are two parts to that: 1. 0% interest on entrance fee (not all approved by Board) and 2. Other Towns will want their entrance rate percentage dropped. Some Towns paid the entire entrance fee up front and other Towns make payments.
- SouthField is an important element particularly if it goes through Braintree. A separate dedicated line to SouthField was questioned. Mayor Sullivan noted that he met with SouthField officials and they are interested.
- Current example was noted of Ashland which is a partial community with MWRA. MassWorks grant to fund improvements to plant played a role.
- The consensus is that MWRA is good situation for the all three communities and they would like to see it happen.
- Mayor Sullivan recapped: on the table is that Tri Town wants no entrance fee and no connectivity and to be a conduit for SouthField.
- MWRA responded: entrance fee is problematic but the Legislature might help.
- There is a potential scenario that if the numbers work that all three will buy in and SouthField will be a bonus.
- State would have to work out costs so that the price for SouthField is equal to Tri Town so SouthField pays the Tri Town entrance cost.
- Tri Town Board would like to meet with Rep. Ron Mariano to encourage Legislation.
- MWRA will reach out to SouthField.

MOTION: By Bill Phelan to end Executive Session
 SECOND: by Rich Brewer
 VOTE: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,
 Robyn LaFrance
 Recording Secretary