

Meeting of Stoneham Water and Sewer Review Board

June 17, 2015

Stoneham Town Hall Conference Room

7:00 P.M.

Members in attendance: John Bracciotti, Scott LeBeau, Richard Mangerian, Stephen Quattrocchi, Patricia Walsh

Finance and Advisory Board Chr. Stephen Dapkiewicz

The meeting of the Stoneham Water and Sewer Review Board was called to order by Chr. Scott Lebeau at 7:00 P.M.

Revised copies of May 28, 2015 meeting were distributed.

First order of business was to approve the revised minutes of May 28, 2015 meeting. All present voted favorably to accept revised minutes.

Following was the discussion of the WSRB's purpose/powers/authority.

Purpose: Schedule hearings for residents' disputes

Hold rate setting meeting prior to the annual town meeting

Chr. LeBeau stated that preliminary assessments from MWRA become available in February. Therefore, a meeting earlier than seven days prior to town meeting (ex. March 31st) would be possible.

Power : Allow rate payers to schedule hearings to resolve disputes.

Authority: The WSRB is an advisory board. The Town Administrator Act of 1981 gave the TA authority over Public Works, which includes acting as Water Commissioner. Article 6 of Town Meeting of 1997 established the WSRB. This board has no authority to make binding decisions. Article 6 states the following language:

Hear water and sewer billing disputes; said board will render to any petitioner a binding decision as to the remedies, if any, in the dispute.

Chairman LeBeau wants this language changed to reflect the current status of the WSRB. The word *binding* does not reflect the authority of the WSRB and should be corrected through town meeting, perhaps as early as October, 2015. The WSRB can only *recommend* a decision.

Misc:

Chr. LeBeau suggested each member think independently on proposed rates rather than accept the DPW Director's recommendation.

Patricia Walsh suggested the establishment of a reserve fund in addition to the enterprise fund in order to cover emergencies.

It was suggested by Chr. Le Beau to have meetings televised. Mangerian suggested the rate setting meeting should be televised. Hearing meetings should not be televised. All present agreed to these suggestions.

Mangerian wants TA to provide a file/binder for record of WSRB minutes.

Walsh submitted a list of water and sewer board issues and topics for discussion.
All members received a copy. One copy will be attached to the minutes for the record.

Chr. Lebeau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. All present voted to adjourn.

Respectfully,

John Bracciotti