

PROFESSIONAL RATES/FEEES STUDY SUBCOMMITTEE OF

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Dighton Water District
192 Williams Street
North Dighton, Massachusetts
02764

Thursday, 1 March 2012
10:30 A.M.

Commissioner Patrick W. Menges, as the Subcommittee for the Professional Study of Rates and Fees of the Dighton Water District, met with District Financial Advisor Mark Abrahams and AECOM Engineer Stephen DeFrancesco at District Headquarters on Thursday, 1 March 2012. The meeting was formally called to order at 10:36 a.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Mr. DeFrancesco began a discussion of views of what the study of rates and fees for which AECOM has been contracted, should do.

Commissioner Menges informed Messrs. Abrahams and DeFrancesco of the revenue implications of the 2012 Redistricting Initiative. The District Clerk provided them a copy of the text of the District Memorandum for the Department of Revenue regarding the initiative.

AGREED BY CONSENSUS:

- (1) That a near-term adjustment of the ratio of District property taxes to rates should be studied. A comparison of Dighton Water District's taxes-to-rates ratio with that of other water supply entities comparable to Dighton's will be made, and an interim adjustment possibly shifting all revenue requirements except the treatment plant construction loan payment and major capital improvements from taxes to rates and fees will be targeted.
- (2) A long-term elimination of Water District property taxes and complete financing of District operations by rates and fees except as to particular betterments on particular streets (which may still be taxed to them) will be studied.
- (3) Special attention will be given to the situations of Audrey Lane, where benefit for taxes paid is at issue, and the sit customers of the Somerset Water Department on County and Hart Streets who are taxed by the District under Acts of 1927 and 1950.

The Dighton Water District's costs and outlays will be studied and budgets for the next five (5) years projected by the study. the District

Clerk/Treasurer furnished Mr. Abrahams and Mr. DeFrancesco the District's present Schedule of Rates and Fees for Resident Customers and the ~~Schedule~~ Interim Schedule of Rates and Fees currently in effect for customers whose property lies outside of the District. It was agreed by consensus that the latter must be increased to insure that the amount paid for water by non-resident customers is not less than the amount paid in total in both taxes and water rates by resident customers.

The meeting was recessed once to allow the District Clerk to retrieve documents for the study from her office.

Attending the meeting in addition to the principals were the District Clerk/Treasurer, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, and Superintendent, Carol A. Stevens, Titania Braga, and Charles Cestodip, Jr., respectively.

Adjourned without day. *at 1:15 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



PATRICK W. MENGES

Commissioner

Clerk of the Commissioners

Subcommittee on Rates & Fees Study