

At last Wednesday's Board of Selectman meeting two major issues were discussed.

The first involved moving forward with water and sewer along rt 3A. As usual there was much discussion or rehash of the pros and cons. Those who believe if we "build it they will come" vs. those who believe the voters were clear when they said no sewer and water until we have an identified 100,000 gal per day end user.

At the end off the discussion there was a motion to have the town planning staff determine what the cost would be to secure design bids and determine if the MBT water contamination problem is significant. This has no money attached at this point.

Erick Anderson suggested we could then take the matter back to the voters for a decision on moving forward.

In order to save the town the design cost I once again asked that we consider including private water and waste management companies as a source of securing design cost. In this type of arrangement you would receive the efficiencies of private sector development while the town could use its bonding power to secure better rates. With the current tight money situation for private development this could be a win-win proposition. The town would save the design cost and the private sector would have the funding to start a new project.

This position was adopted into the motion and the motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Again the project is far from a done deal. No comment has been made to move forward and no addition funds are being spent at this time. We are simply gathering more cost data.

The other issue is the dispatch fees we charge other towns that use Bow's dispatch service. We finally agreed on what number to use and the new rates were established. *We did not agree on charging the new cost based rates.* Some Selectmen felt the new rates would drive other towns to use the Sheriff's dispatch service. The Chief reported that the Sherriff had told her he could accommodate one large and one small town into the county system. (We pay for this through the County portion of our property tax). Using the County dispatch was my original suggestion (last year) but I was told the Sheriff could not accommodate any additional towns. If we did use the Sheriff for dispatch the town would save more then \$400,000 per year. We decided that we needed to know if the Sheriff is serious with his offer.

The next Select Board meeting is Wed. November 19th.

NOTE: There will be a joint meeting of the Select Board and the School Board on Thursday November 20th at the town administrative building. The public is invited to attend