

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

October 11, 2007

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the main offices at 80 Old Bass River Rd., S Dennis. The meeting was called to order by Edward A. Crowell, Chairman at 4:15 PM. Water Commissioner Paul F. Prue and Charles F. Crowell were present along with the following District officials:

David Larkowski, Superintendent
Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer

Ms. McMahon presented a request for a credit for high water usage by Patrick McCarthy of 4 Washburn Place, Account No. 09032. She explained that the customer has been in on a number of occasions trying to determine the cause of his increased water bill. He did have a new lawn irrigation system installed and did not monitor the usage. On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize a credit in the amount of \$283.25 to Patrick McCarthy of 4 Washburn Place, Dennis, in accordance with the Board's Leak Abatement Policy.***

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board members that Ms. Julia Kelley of 234 Setucket Road, Dennis came in to the office and expressed her concerns about the spraying of herbicides and pesticides by the electric company within their right-of-ways that go through or near water district land. Apparently she is proposing that the electric right-of-way be considered a nature habitat or wildlife corridor. Mr. Larkowski reported that NSTAR does not utilize mass sprayings any longer. Basically, they will use machinery to cut the vegetation and then spot treat with herbicides trees such as oak and pitch pine. They pass through and mechanically mow down every few years. The Board members asked Mr. Larkowski to send a letter to Ms. Kelley and express their appreciation for her concerns for the watershed and inform her that this type of activity receives proper environmental review and approval.

Mr. Larkowski reviewed the design and engineering contract with Earth Tech, Inc., for the construction of two Iron and Manganese Removal Plants. He explained that the reason the price quoted on the project was so favorable to the District was the history that the Earth Tech has with working with the District on previous projects and they know that there will be a high level of effort by the Superintendent on oversight of the project from project design right through construction and the start up of operations. Mr. Larkowski further advised that as the project proceeds with design and funding requirements, there may be a need to revisit and adjust the services provided. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to award the design, engineering and construction oversight contract for professional engineering services to Earth Tech, Inc., at the quoted price.***

The Superintendent also reviewed the State Revolving Fund loan application process and that the District will not know whether the project has been approved or not until the list is published near year-end. There is also an application being worked on by Earth Tech for a grant through the Rural Water Development program.

Mr. Larkowski advised that the contractor painting the Route 134 Tank is slightly behind scheduled. Apparently, they had to wait for a part for the robotic paint blaster. He has advised the contractor that he is not satisfied with the progress of the job to date. He also stated that the Police Chief has verbally authorized work on Sunday between 10 and 4. The paint manufacturer will be down in the next week or so and they will then proceed with the paint adhesion tests.

Mr. Larkowski advised that Cingular Wireless, a current lessee on the West Dennis Tank, will be decommissioning the site as they do not intend to renew the lease. They have already decommissioned the \$20,000 lease on the Hokum Rock Tank. This will be another estimated \$20,000 reduction in tank rental income for the District.

The Treasurer advised the Board that she had authorized a repair on the folding machine based on a verbal quote from the repair technician in the office. He advised that the part was just under \$1,000 and she estimated a couple hundred dollars for labor. Ms. McMahon made it clear in her discussion with the repair technician that the machine is an asset to the office, however, she did not want to spend an inordinate amount of money on its repair given the original purchase cost was about \$4,500. A week later, when the technician returned with the part, he advised the office staff that there were some additional screws, pins and springs that did not come with the part that he had to order. The staff authorized him to procure the additional parts without inquiring as to their cost. It was assumed they would be minimal. Ms. McMahon received a bill totaling \$3,200 for the repairs. She provided the Board with a letter she sent to the company, of which the technician is a principal. She stated that, although the repair cost is excessive, it was authorized by her and the staff and the District has a legal obligation to pay it and is therefore requesting a Reserve Fund Transfer. The Board members each expressed their concern about the business practices of the company and asked that their sentiments be conveyed by the Treasurer to the owner. Mr. Prue suggested that the Treasurer advise the owner that he knows an individual in the repair business and is going to have the bill reviewed. There was no action taken by the Board on the Treasurer's request at this time.

Ms. McMahon advised that she would be away on vacation the week of the regularly scheduled Board meeting in November and asked if the Board wished to reschedule the meeting. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the ***Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to re-schedule their regular monthly meeting from November 8 to November 15, 2007.***

Mr. Larkowski reminded the Board members that the Town of Dennis has scheduled a *State of the Town Meeting* on Saturday, November 3 at 2:00 PM.

With no further business before the Board, the Water Commissioners signed the Accounts Payable Warrants and on a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk