

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

December 13, 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 4:02 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

The Treasurer brought to the Board's attention the Tony Kent Arena account as it has a substantially large balance past due. Historically, the Arena pays for its water bills in installments during periods of time when it has positive cash flows. However, it has come to her attention that the Arena is having serious financial difficulties and that the water bill is not the only utility bill in arrears. The Arena has made just one \$932.82 payment this calendar year. The total amount outstanding as of December 1, 2007, was \$3,763.82. Ms. McMahon stated that, although the Arena is exempt from property taxes, it is still possible to assess a water lien in the event the bills remain unpaid. She advised that there is a legal limitation on the time in which the District has to commit a water lien against a property for collection on the property tax. A water lien must be committed to the Assessors by December 31 of the year following in which the water bill was due. In other words, all bills with a due date of December 1, 2007 must be committed to the Town Assessors by December 31, 2008. The Board thanked Ms. McMahon for bringing the matter to their attention. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

Mr. Larkowski advised that the District is short approximately \$96,000 for completion of the projects committed for the Wastewater Management Planning. To date, the District has appropriated \$400,000 towards the decision making process of whether or not the District should amend its legislation in order to manage wastewater. There was a lengthy discussion regarding this issue. Mr. Larkowski stated that there is an expectation by SMAST (University of Massachusetts) scientists that the sampling regimen, although reduced, will continue over the summer season in 2008. He also outlined additional costs incurred such as the *Ownership Issues* study that will be completed in January 2008. The consensus of the Board was that they remain committed to continuing with the sampling requirements of the Massachusetts Estuaries Project. They concurred with Mr. Larkowski's assessment and requested that the required amounts be included in the FY 2009 budget proposal.

The Superintendent provided an update on the engineering plans for the Iron and Manganese Removal Project. One issue was the installation of fire sprinklers at a cost of \$30,000. The system would have to be alarmed. The issue involved having a 2,000-gallon tank for KOH on site and reducing it to 500 gallons. The size reduction will require more fillings but, it would save a considerable amount in the construction costs. Mr. Larkowski also outlined that the building code requires a mixing valve for the emergency showers. He has tried to find a way to avoid the cost of \$9,000 for each station. Earth Tech engineers have stated that the plumbing code requires the water to be at a certain temperature range. He further explained that another engineering difficulty is how to stop and start the running of the station because at any one time there may be one to five wells

pumping through the plant. He also explained that there may be a need to have some of the “outside” work will have to be done by contractors in order to keep pace with the project. It will require updating the pumps for the wells that are being treated. They will need to have variable frequency drives for the pumps to accommodate the various changes in head. The work with the SCADA system will include screens, alarms, radios and modems. The work being done in-house will probably save an estimated \$200,000. He also stated that approximately 4.5 miles of water main will have to be installed. The project will also require pressure reducing valves in case of unacceptable pressures. Additional vaults will also need to be installed which will be built by contractors and installed by the District. Construction of the backwash lagoons can also be done in-house with District personnel and equipment. The electric lines will have to be extended by 600 feet from Station 11. The District will do all of the site clearing, stump removal and disposal. Security fences will have to be installed and access roads paved. Mr. Larkowski also advised that, although the vast majority of work will be done on District property, there will be a need to cross a few main roads and the need to obtain an easement from the Ulrichs on Airline Road. He stated that he did mention it to Mr. Ulrich before he left for Florida for the season. Mr. Ulrich’s response was, “we’ll talk”. Mr. Larkowski said that his main priority and focus over the next 18 months will be supervising the construction of the two plants and the installation of raw and treated water mains. The Earth Tech clerk-of-the-works will oversee the construction for the most important aspects of the project. He further advised that he did not think the crews would have enough time to complete the installation of the mains by working just five days per week. He is suggesting that there will be a need for longer work days during the favorable seasons and perhaps on Saturdays as well. Further analysis is being done as whether or not the District will have to pay prevailing wages to its employees for work on this project. Mr. Larkowski stated that, due to the level of effort and commitment he is expecting from the crews, he felt that the payment of prevailing wages, whether mandated or not, would be in the District’s best interest. Ms. McMahon noted that whether the state requires the payment of prevailing wages to District employees, the per-hour rate can be offset by the District’s contributions to health, welfare and retirement. Mr. Larkowski estimated the cost of materials for the project procured by the District at \$1.7 million dollars.

Mr. Larkowski distributed the draft list of recently announced Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan for 2008. The ranking showed that the District received the second highest rating for drinking water projects. He noted that there is a limited amount of funds available for lending. Mr. Larkowski was pleased to advise the Board that the State has approved the District’s application for loans through the State Revolving Drinking Water Fund (SRF). The approval is for \$6,000,000 for 2008. However, the State is aware that the entire project is estimated at eligible costs for reimbursement at \$11,110,000. Mr. Prue asked what was the rationale used to support the application approval. Mr. Larkowski responded by saying that the State ranked the projects based on the information provided in the application which was based on water quality violations, flushing and chlorination requirements, as well as feasibility of the project.

Ms. McMahon advised the Board that the owner of Centigraph, Inc., the company that made the repairs to the folding machine, has provided a slight adjustment to the repair invoice based on travel time and a “good customer” credit. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Treasurer to transfer a sum not to exceed \$3,000 from the Reserve Fund for the payment of extraordinary and unforeseen repairs to the folding machine.***

Mr. Prue advised that he would be out of the country on vacation beginning January 9th through the 20th and would not be available for the regularly scheduled Board meeting. On a motion made by

Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to reschedule their regularly meeting to be held January 24.***

Chairman Crowell shared his travel experiences during his recent cruise through the Panama Canal. He said that he had pictures of him riding on zip-lines through the jungle. He said he enjoyed the trip immensely.

There was a general discussion regarding energy use at the District. Mr. Prue suggested that the managers use every means available to reduce energy costs.

Mr. Larkowski advised that he has authorized the storing of a trailer by the State's contractor near Station 5 off Route 134. The company, S & R will be contracting with the State to work on reconstruction of the overpass at Exit 9 on Route 134. He stated that he had conditioned the approval by prohibiting the storing of any hazardous materials on the site due considering its proximity to the public water supply.

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 6:07 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk