

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

September 24, 2015

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Police Department, 90 Bob Crowell Road, South Dennis and called to order by Paul F. Prue, Chairman at 6:00 PM. Water Commissioners Charles F. Crowell and Peter L. McDowell were present. Also in attendance was David Larkowski, Superintendent and Sheryl A McMahon, Treasurer.

Public Comment – None

Update on MHC LLC (trailer park on Old Chatham Road) Land Court claim.

Mr. Larkowski provided an update on this pending case (the District is not a party). He has tried to contact them over the course of last month. The local attorney that was the last known attorney of record has not been available. In fact he stated that MHC has not been able to reach the local attorney. Mr. Larkowski further advised that MHC was expecting to change to a Boston attorney and pick up on the case again. Their intent is to wrap this up with as much haste as possible.

Update on Replacement of West Dennis Tank.

The bids received for the rehabilitation and painting of the tank exceeded the amount budgeted. Mr. Larkowski said that he began investigating the feasibility of constructing a new tank of the last month. The money currently appropriated for the maintenance work is a special appropriation for maintenance and painting. Ms. McMahon is of the opinion that the funds currently appropriated will need to be re-allocated for a new construction project. The Superintendent has been advised by Kristen Berger and Mike Ohl of Comprehensive Environmental, Inc. (CEI) to consider changing the size of tank if new construction is being considered. In order to provide the engineer with the best possible data for modeling the hydraulics necessary to provide a size recommendation, he needs to update the GIS with new water main data. Mr. Larkowski has worked out a scope of work for the engineer to undertake this project. There needs to be a hydraulic analysis to ensure that there is sufficient water available with the demand is present. When the oldest tank in West Dennis was dismantled in 1998, Whitman & Howard had conducted a small analysis that indicated that the 5 to 6 foot drops would continue. However, the drops in actuality are much more dramatic. The concept is basic, a larger tank would provide for mitigating the drops. Centerville Osterville Marstons Mills Water District recently took down a small elevated riveted tank and replaced it with a million gallon tank to meet their current demands. Tank options will also be evaluated for performance by the engineers. He has also had some preliminary discussions with tank manufacturers on sizing, design and the estimated cost. There is no current appropriation to have CEI do this engineering work. It will take approximately three months to undertake this work. He is requesting \$24,900 as a Reserve Fund transfer to enter into a contract with CEI for the scope work as discussed. In addition for consideration is the cellular antenna leases that are in place. Mr. McDowell asked if the \$24,900 would complete the evaluation and recommendation. Mr. Larkowski confirmed that it would. On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to transfer \$24,900 from the Reserve Fund to pay for engineering services to provide an analysis and recommendation for the replacement of the West Dennis tank.** Mr. Larkowski noted that Cotuit Fire District is taking down two tanks and replacing it with one new more modern model.

Request to from the Town of Dennis Comprehensive Wastewater Task Force to place article in the February 2016 Dennis Water District Newsletter and/or flyer insert in August 2016.

Ms. McMahon explained that Stan Graveline, member of the CWTF was seeking an opportunity to provide information to the public on the status of wastewater in the Town of Dennis. The Task Force has asked for the possibility of an article in the "Main-Line" newsletter perhaps as early as February 2016 or to include a flyer (one page 8 ½ x 11) in with the August water bill. The cost of printing would be borne by the CWTF and there would be no additional postage cost to the District for its inclusion. There is no postage available in the February mailing as it is at capacity with the water bill, return envelope, Consumer Confidence Report and the newsletter. There is the possibility of the Town including an insert with the next mailing of the tax bills upon approval of the Board of Selectmen. There was a brief discussion about a request being made by the Water Quality Advisory Committee on a request for \$2,000 for printing an information piece.

Superintendent Report:

Mr. Larkowski reported that there is a bill filed in the state senate being sponsored by Senator Dan Wolfe and other legislators for the Cape and Islands which, if passed, would require that any municipal water supply could request that the utility develop a separate plan for not spraying in the watershed areas. Essentially, this would mean a plan of mechanical clearing only. Mr. Larkowski asked for the Board's support of a letter to be sent to the proper committee for the pending bill. The Superintendent advised that the power company does contact the District prior to spraying so that the Zone I for the wells can be flagged and not sprayed. Mr. McDowell asked for a copy of the pending legislation. To Mr. Larkowski's knowledge there is no known contamination as result of the utility's spraying. He explained that the sprayers apply the spray to specific species that are being targeted. On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to support the legislation which would require utility companies maintaining their easements within public water supply areas to provide an alternative plan to spraying and to authorized the Superintendent to submit a letter of support on behalf of the Board.***

The Superintendent advised that the third phase of the Transmission Main Project, that portion that went from Great Western Road across an easement on property of Robert Childs, Inc. has been installed and pressure tested. It is currently awaiting chlorination clearance and he expects it to be on line next week. He said that it is important to have this new transmission main on-line when the engineers come to do flow tests in the system for modeling a new water tank.

Mr. Larkowski advised that there are other tanks in need of maintenance work and painting. The next tank that needs work is the Hokum Rock Tank. It is a 2.7 million gallons and is 122 feet tall. It also has cellular antenna in service. It has some pits in the paint, needs power washing and may need some small areas may need sand-blasting. He plans to put together some specifications and advertise the work for early spring of 2016. He estimated the cost to be less than \$200,000. Mr. Larkowski said he did not have the time to do this tank and his main focus in the spring will be water main flushing. It has been two years since the north side of Town has been flushed.

Chairman Prue asked about funding a new tank project over the course of the next several years. Ms. McMahon said that there was more than one million dollars in the Stabilization Fund. The possibility of a borrowing authorization may be required but, an actual bonding may not be ultimately necessary.

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. McMahon reported on the Solar Farm Revenue. Two additional payments have been received since the Board's last meeting. Since inception the District has received approximately \$97,000 and for the current fiscal year approximately \$79,000. Estimated revenues for FY 2016 was \$75,000. Mr. McDowell asked for an analysis on the percentage of solar revenue to the District expenditure for electrical power. The money received is net of the District's share of the developer's cost.

Ms. McMahon advised that the Town is looking to fast-track the setting of the tax rate so they have requested that she file the Water Lien Commitment with the Assessors as soon as possible. Those accounts that are committed are usually ones that, for whatever reason, cannot bring the account current in such a way that a lien is avoidable. Amounts unpaid as a water lien are eventually committed to the Town Treasurer as a tax lien. The only time that the District would not receive the lien is in the rare case when the Town forecloses on the property and retains the property as a tax procession. In that event, there is no money from which to pay the District's lien. The annual amount varies between \$15,000 and \$25,000 and involves between 15 and 30 accounts. There have been years without a commitment. There are between 15 to 30 accounts paying on-account on a monthly basis.

Minutes of September 2, 2015

On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of September 2, 2015 as corrected.***

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, ***the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:40 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk