

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

March 22, 2017

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 Peter L. McDowell and Alan Tuttle were present. Also in attendance was Sheryl A McMahon, Treasurer.

Public Information

Mr. Tuttle requested copies of the job descriptions of the Superintendent and Treasurer. Mr. McDowell noted that the audit mentioned the need for the development of policies and procedures for administration. Ms. McMahon acknowledged that they are a work in progress but, not much progress has been made lately due to a changes in personnel.

Leak Abatement Application: Oppedisano, Frank A, 123 Center Street, Dennis Port, 04639

Mr. Larkowski reviewed the application for a Leak Abatement. The leak occurred between the house and another building. The customer has had it repaired. On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve a credit in the amount of \$212.60 in accordance with the Leak Abatement Policy for Frank A Oppedisano, 123 Center Street, Dennis Port.***

Update: New Water Tank Project in West Dennis

The Superintendent reported that a new geotech report was done by Caldwell, the tank contractor. The foundation is designed to have 98 micro piles at 10" by 35' each with steel core. The footings will be poured around them. They are currently working on the rebar detail. The contractor still needs to apply for building permits which is anticipated in the next several weeks. This phase of the project will take approximately four to five weeks.

Consider Status Condition for Drought Action Level

Following up on a discussion with the Board a few months ago regarding the drought management status for the District, Mr. Larkowski reviewed the trends of the USGS monitoring well in Brewster. Last year, as the summer demand season approached, the well was above normal. Current levels have been well below the average since December. Rainfall is most important from November to April. He stated that when the water is low the pumping of the supply wells has to be watched carefully. He recommended that the Board consider changing the drought action level from normal to advisory which would ask for voluntary odd-even outdoor watering. His concern was having to "turn back" wells (shallow) from 700 gallons per minute to perhaps 600 gallons per minute. The voluntary restrictions would help manage the peak demands. Announcing the voluntary restrictions helps educate the public on the situation. The Superintendent re-iterated that the Cape is significantly different than the rest of the state. It was suggested that a "third party" piece on watering lawns be included in the next newsletter. On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to move the Drought Action Level status from "Normal" to "Advisory".***

Consider adding High Deductible-Health Savings Account Qualified Plans (HD-HSA) offered by Cape Cod Municipal Health Care to employee menu of plan options

Ms. McMahon reviewed the basic principles of the HD-HSA plans which essentially requires the subscriber to meet the deductible first and once met all qualified medical benefits are covered in full. There are no co-pays except for prescriptions once the deductible is met. The premiums are substantially less because of the cost shift of the higher deductible. To help meet the annual deductible, the plan requires the employer to deposit ½ of the annual deductible into a subscriber owned health savings account. The concept is to have the employee meet the remaining half of the deductible with tax deferred payroll deposits to their health savings

account, although it is not required. An added benefit is that any unexpended funds in their health savings account is theirs. There is not maximum accumulation and it remains the employees even if they terminate or retire. The Treasurer reviewed the differences in the premiums as well as the cost to the District. A considerable amount of time was spent reviewing how the HD-HSA process works. Ms. McMahon was seeking the Board's approval to offer the HD-HSA as an insurance plan option to employees. She would like additional time to explain the new plan to employees and give them more time than just the open enrollment period. She believed that some employees will want to take the time to research their own history of medical expense claims and out-of-pocket expenses to see if the plan will meet their needs. Mr. Tuttle said that in his review he has not found a drawback in the proposal. Ms. McMahon estimated that, based on current enrollment, if everyone participated in the HD-HSA plans it would save the District more than \$26,000. It was agreed to defer a decision on offering the new plans until April 3rd at 3:00 PM at the District office.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that new mains have been installed on Arden and Morris Roads. The project was approximately 600 feet of 6-inch main (no hydrants). He noted that many years ago when Division Street was upgraded, not every service was taken off the old 2-inch line so as they are finding them they are switching them over so that the 2-inch main can be taken out of service permanently.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. McMahon had distributed updated worksheets on the Solar Revenue. She also reviewed the water billing totals for the February 2017 water bills. This is the usage cycle from July through December 2016. Roughly a 30% increase in total usage for January – June since 10 years ago and a 6% increase for July – December.

Ms. McMahon advised that the auditor will be available on June 1 to meet with the Board for further review. It was suggested that the May 25 meeting be rescheduled for that night. In the meantime, Mr. McGee invited any one or all of the Commissioners to call him to ask any questions so that he may be prepared to answer them comprehensively. The Board agreed to reschedule the meeting.

Minutes: Executive Sessions: January 11 and 26, March 2, 2017. Regular Meetings: March 2 and 13, 2017

Minutes were deferred.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 7:31PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk