

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

February 14, 2008

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 4:12 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

Paul McCormick, Selectman and Chairman of the CWMP Task Force

Richard Brennan, Member of the CWMP Task Force

Mr. Prue provided an update on the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan Task Force meeting on the prior Tuesday afternoon. Nate Weeks, of Stearns and Wheler provided a power point presentation on a study commissioned by entitled "*Dennis Water District Investigation of Ownership Issues Related to Wastewater Facility Implementation in Dennis*". Mr. Brennan said that initially he was reluctant to vote one way or the other because he didn't understand how the District operated or how the Town envisions how it will work within the municipal government. Mr. Larkowski provided a history of how the District became involved in the wastewater management issue. Mr. Prue said that the Task Force voted 8-1-6 to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Dennis Water District assume the legal responsibility and authority to provide wastewater management implementation in the Town of Dennis. Ms. McMahon noted that the six abstentions were Task Force members that are also employees. There was a lot of the discussion at the meeting as to which entity could serve the town best in the role of wastewater management. The District is a known quantity based on what it has accomplished over the years in drinking water. There was continued discussion about meeting with the Board of Selectmen on March 11. As far as the selectmen making a decision, they will probably consider the work that the District has accomplished to date and the Water Commissioners' commitment to the process. It will take the support of the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Health, business owners and concerned citizens to continue the funding necessary for wastewater initiatives. Ms. McMahon noted that the Town of Yarmouth has an article on their town meeting warrant seeking \$3.1 million for the sewer design from the Barnstable town-line down Route 28 to Parker River. It is being done for economic redevelopment on Route 28 and that the level of treatment required for nitrogen removal is yet undetermined. The question for the Water Commissioners is; are the Commissioners prepared to accept and support the continued planning effort if it is the consensus and recommendation of the Board of Selectmen that the District accept the responsibility for wastewater management and to file legislation to enact it?. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the responsibility and authority for wastewater management planning and infrastructure if requested and supported by the Board of***

Selectmen to do so. Mr. Prue noted that there is still much work to be done in planning and that it is premature to discuss what level of sewer treatment will be necessary or required by other authorities but, the Board should continue with the momentum that has been established and with the work that has been done to date.

Iron & Manganese Removal Project:

Chairman Crowell spoke with Mr. Ulrich on the phone and he has agreed to grant an easement to the District for the installation of water mains across an existing NSTAR easement. Terms or conditions have not been finalized as of yet and Mr. Larkowski will contact Mr. Ulrich for further discussions.

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that the project design is 99% complete with a few minor items to be reviewed and decided. Last night the OKH approved the design and location of the treatment plants.

Mr. Larkowski advised that tomorrow the MEPA hearing will be held. The hearing is necessary because the Notice of Intent for the project exceeds \$10 million in construction costs. He said that there will be a walk-through on the sites selected and the location of the mains to be installed for the north side treatment plant. When the site inspections have been conducted in the past, they have been done in order to ensure that the work is not done in environmentally sensitive areas. Mr. Larkowski is trying to reduce the length of installation by 500' that will cross an area previously identified by Mass Wildlife as having rare and endangered species. The questions asked of MEPA are, "Which species have been identified and how it will be addressed?" The parties involved will not share that information with the District or consultants at this particular time. It may require further permitting with additional engineering costs to be incurred. One main to be installed will bring 2,800 gallons a minutes from one area of the system into a treatment plant and then it has to be re-distributed in order to prevent catastrophic failure in the event of a water main break. Considerable savings have been achieved by designing the treatment plants without double pumping, utilizing the existing corrosion facilities and installing variable frequency drives. Dry lagoons would require discharge permits and monitoring indefinitely.

The Superintendent advised that financing through the Rural Water Development (RWD) is a grant and loan program by the federal government. The funds have considerable "strings" attached. He and the Treasurer, in consultation with the Michael Ohl and Kristen Berger, both of Earth Tech, are recommending that the District discontinue seeking financing through this program. They explained that the RWD grants are for only about half of what would be available and that the other half of the financing would be a loan at near market rate. The estimated net interest cost is about the same or perhaps a little more than the State Revolving Fund loan program. There will be certain conditions placed on the SRF loan agreements as well. So far, the SRF representatives have commented that they don't want to have the project work separated. They were concerned that if the water main projects work is separated out and they fund approximately \$8 for the plant construction and when it comes time for start-up and the water mains are not connected they will have an incomplete project to contend with and that that kind of scenario is not good for their program. Mr. Larkowski said that even if they allow us to perform our own water main installation, they will require an inspector present on the job at all times. This would be required whether or not it was done by the District or a private contractor. Mr. Larkowski stated that the District can hire a local inspector for about 15 to 16 months. Board members commented that this is a long time for an inspector just to watch the job. Purchasing material has to be done under state guidelines which may be even stricter than what is required under Chapter 30B. Under the state procurement regulations it will require certain percentages of the work to be done by WBE or

MBE (Women and Minority owned Businesses) contractors. The Superintendent advised that he knows of a local business that can provide the inspection services and will meet the WBE requirement.

Chairman Crowell inquired as to how much purchasing the District does through the County's purchasing program. Mr. Larkowski stated that whenever possible, purchases are made through the County. However, there have been a number of products that he has been able to acquire at lower prices by seeking more timely quotes. He noted that most of the County bids are obtained prior to the fiscal year and are usually out for a fiscal year. Sometimes there are favorable price changes that are not reflected in the County's pricing.

Ms. McMahon advised that an amendment to the District's enabling act requires that the Board of Water Commissioners appoint a Clerk and Treasurer for a term of three years. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to appoint Sheryl A. McMahon as Clerk and Treasurer for a three-year term to expire March 1, 2011.***

With no further business before the Board, the Commissioners signed the Accounts Payable Warrants and on a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn their meeting at approximately 5:45 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk