

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

June 1, 2017

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Town Hall, 685 Route 134, South Dennis and called to order by Paul F. Prue, Chairman at 5:30 PM. Water Commissioners Peter L. McDowell and Alan Tuttle were present. Also in attendance was David Larkowski, Superintendent and Sheryl A McMahon, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Peter L McDowell *that the Board conduct an Executive Session in accordance with MGL Ch. 30A §21A: Reason #3; to discuss strategy with respect to litigation and that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body on a case filed with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) and to return to open session upon its completion. Alan Tuttle seconded the motion. The Chair then called for the roll call vote as follows:*

Alan Tuttle – “Aye”

Peter L. McDowell – “Aye”

Paul F. Prue – “Aye”

The Board returned to open session at approximately 6:00 PM.

ELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOLLOWING ANNUAL ELECTION

Chairman Prue read from a prepared statement in which he remunerated the longevity of water commissioner who organized the District and of Thomas Murray who served as Chairman for 25 years. Norman Hallett then served for eight consecutive years until his passing in 1977. It was in 1977 that Mr. Prue was first elected to serve Mr. Hallett's unexpired term. In that year, Edward Crowell was elected as Chairman and served continuously for 32 years until his retirement in 2009. Having been elected as Chairman in 2009, Mr. Prue has represented the District at legislative hearings, before state officials for approval of certain processes and on behalf of the Board for the acceptance of various awards and recognitions. Mr. Prue also shared his experiences representing the District at several professional organizations in the presentation of topics such as public-private partnerships for the acquisition of watershed protection and financing capital infrastructure. Mr. Prue asked to be returned to the role of Chair by his fellow Board members.

Mr. Tuttle stated that he was first elected in 1976 and through the years I have always encouraged people to contact me with any questions or problems. Since 1976, he has never received as many calls, bumped into people on the street and post office who had a feeling on this matter. He said that having people in attendance tonight was great and makes the position of elected official easier. He said several weeks ago he was upset when he was asked by the administration to meet with them after signing vouchers. He met with them without knowing what the situation was about. He said that administration basically lobbied for one person to be Chairman. He said he was shocked and had no response for them at the time because he thought it was totally out of place. He said that our administration does a great job but, they should have nothing to do with the election of a chairman. He said in thirty years he had never heard or seen anything like this and maybe administration can explain

why this happened. He said that even today he had received a phone call and it has him uncertain as to what he wanted to do on this. With his mind being upset and confused and knowing that Paul has done a good job and knowing that these are two good people, both being reputable and liking them both, he said he needed more time to think this over. On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to table the election of a chair and vice chair.***

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. Larkowski announced that the District's Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day would be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Tony Kent Arena. He noted that additional information is on the District's website. He also noted that additional collection s are being held this year by the Town of Dennis.

Mr. Larkowski announced that the Department of Environmental Protection will be conducting a public hearing on the District's plan to acquire by gift a parcel of land off Rena's Way in Dennis. The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7th in Lakeville. The plan of land is available for review at the District office.

The Superintendent advised that the District will be flushing on the north side of town. The water still gets "dirty" from the iron that gets deposited in the mains albeit to a lesser degree than previous to the installation of the iron removal plants. The flushing will likely continue until the end of June.

RE-SCHEDULED - FY 2015 & 2016 AUDIT FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOLLOW UP

Ms. McMahon advised that due to a communication error on her part, the audit review had to be re-scheduled to the next regular meeting of the Board to be held June 22, 2017. She apologized to the Board for the error.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING GIFT OF LAND FROM PETER J. NYBERG AS AUTHORIZED BY ARTICLE 8 OF THE ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING HELD APRIL 25, 2017.

As previously announced by Mr. Larkowski, the public hearing by the DEP for the District's acquisition by gift of a parcel of land (with a confirmatory order of taking) being donated by Peter J. Nyberg is scheduled next week. While he did not expect to have any issues with the hearing and fully anticipated receiving approval from DEP, he did state that there had been a couple of calls regarding the notice and that a few years ago, concerning a different parcel of land, a gentlemen had attended and announced that he owned at least part of the property being acquired. He further noted that, according to statute, once the Board votes to acquire the land by eminent domain, it has to be recorded within thirty (30) days. To be cautious, Mr. Larkowski recommended that the Board postpone the vote to take a confirmatory taking by eminent domain until the approval by DEP is issued.

WEST DENNIS TANK PROJECT UPDATE

The total contractor cost as awarded to Caldwell, Inc., is for \$3.3 million. Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that the contractors have submitted for payment a total of \$708,222.01 to date. He distributed an updated schedule for construction having highlighted the foundation and pedestal items. The pilings have been installed. There are 106 piles which are 10" casings 42 feet deep around the diameter of the footing. It took about six weeks to install. He described how initial testing failed and following further design work and deeper depths the tests were acceptable and the pilings installed. There is several hundred thousand dollars on initial design work included in the contract. Work on the 140 foot

pedestal should begin in June and be close to the height by the middle of August. A video camera is going to be set up and take perhaps 2 shots per day to be streamed which will show the progress through out construction.

DROUGHT CONSERVATION STATUS UPDATE

The Superintendent advised the Board that that the USGS monitoring well in Brewster, used to ascertain the status of groundwater levels, is showing signs of returning to near normal. However, at the end of May it was still below average. It is past the months of recovery for the groundwater levels which is considered winter and early spring. The levels will start dropping because of the summer demand. He has made it mandatory for all the Town of Dennis, schools and the private non-profits. He also has asked Patriot Square to reduce their watering to no more than every other day in keeping with the voluntary odd-even outdoor watering restriction. There was a discussion regarding reducing the frequency of watering even further for those accounts receiving free water. Mr. Larkowski said that for right now the District was able to meet the demands and that if it were necessary to increase restrictions that would be something we could do to reduce demand. He noted that there is an opportunity in the newsletter this August to remind people to be conservative with their water usage.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Larkowski reported that the well cleaning for the Main Station was just finishing up and should be going back on line this June. Our production is at maximum and we could not be in a better position to being the summer pumping season. Mr. McDowell asked if all of the nitrate testing was done. Mr. Larkowski reported that it was not yet completed because of the Main Station and Well 6 are not on-line.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. McMahon advised that finding a suitable candidate to fill the vacancy has not been fruitful to this point and may require another round of advertising. The position is being filled with experienced temporary help for which she is very grateful but, the lack of a full time person means others, including herself, have to fill in the gaps.

The Treasurer acknowledged a lack of progress in the documentation of policies and procedures. She expects to have a draft policy for Cash Management for the Board to receive at their next meeting.

Next week she announced that the District will begin reading meters throughout the Town. She explained that staff do not necessarily walk up and down each driveway as this would be too time consuming, so they may walk from yard to yard. They try to be as mindful and courteous as possible but, with some properties the reader is in the back of the house so she wanted people to be aware that meter reading is about to begin. This generally takes about eight weeks to complete and she anticipated that the water bills will be issued on or about August 7. Ms. McMahon took this opportunity to note that she will need to spend late summer and early fall focusing on replacing the water billing software for next year's budget. She said the new programming to be implemented should take her out of so much hands-on in processing the bills. The programming sought will be with an eye towards including the integration of on-line bill presentment and collection

There was a discussion on the reading process that takes about five weeks. There was a discussion regarding the integration of new software with the presentation of bills on-line and acceptance of payment. Ms. McMahon stated that bills can currently be paid through a third-party on our website.

She explained that the electronic payment file is downloaded and posted which eliminates individual posting and most errors.

There was a discussion about the frequency of dog bites and calls from people wanting to verify that the District was out reading. Most often these are calls from people who watch their security cameras and see District employee around the property.

MINUTES

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of March 13, 2017, with corrections.**

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of March 22, 2017, with corrections.**

There was a discussion regarding the inclusion of a consensus of the Board at the April 3, 2017 meeting regarding the auctioning of the dump truck rather than trading it for the purchase of a new one which has been authorized by District Meeting. The minutes were deferred so that wording to that effect could be included. ~~On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of April 3, 2017, with corrections.~~

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of April 13, 2017, with corrections.**

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk