

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

June 28, 2018

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Police Station, 90 Bob Crowell Rd., S Dennis and called to order by Paul F. Prue, Chairman at 6:00 PM. Water Commissioner Alan Tuttle was present. Also in attendance was Sheryl A McMahon, Treasurer. Commissioner Peter L. McDowell and David Larkowski, Superintendent, were absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Information

Chairman Prue noted that the Household Hazardous Waste Collection was held on June 2. It was well attend and a considerable amount of product was taken in to be disposed of properly. Ms. McMahon also wanted to thank the Town of Dennis DPW for bringing their latex paint collection program over to the HazMat collection site. This alleviated the need for participants to have to take their paint over to the transfer station for disposal.

Request for Reserve Fund Transfer: To replace pole damaged during winter storms – not to exceed \$15,000 – Current Reserve Fund Balance - \$64,524

Ms. McMahon noted that Mr. Larkowski had sent an email prior to the meeting describing the need for the transfer. A pole going into Station 16 was damaged during one of the winter storms. It has taken months to coordinate the replacement with Eversource as this is a private pole. The estimated cost of has been refined due to more accurate quotes. Therefore, the Superintendent is requesting a transfer of \$10,000 to replace the pole. On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded the Board ***VOTED: 2-0-0 (PLM absent) to authorize a transfer \$10,000 from the Reserve Fund for replacement of an electrical pole due to storm damage.***

Pesticide sampling project

Mr. Larkowski had provided a memo to the Board members prior to the meeting outlining his recommendation that the District participate in a pesticide sampling program proposed by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Ms. McMahon noted that there has been considerable media attention given that Eversource continues to use herbicides and pesticides on the power lines to control vegetation. It has been a growing public concern given that there are a number of public water supply wells within those power line easements. The program is aimed at discovering if there are any of those treatment chemicals are detected in the water supply and at what level. They are unregulated contaminants and testing is not required. The benefit is that we would know if they are in the water supply. If so, they would have to be reported in the 2018 Consumer Confidence Report (or whatever year they were detected). The downside is if they are detected, and there was an immediate concern, the well(s) may have to be shut down. If they are perhaps detected in minute amounts, there may be no cause for action. Unless there was an objection by the Board, the Superintendent planned to proceed with cooperating with the program. Both Commissioners agreed that the District should participate in the sampling project.

Water Tank Update

On behalf of Mr. Larkowski, Ms. McMahon reported that the inspector for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection conducted their final inspection of the new tank in West Dennis and submitted their approval. The new tank is now on-line. The cell phone companies have been notified and will be moving their equipment from the old tank to the new tank. She also noted that Mr. Larkowski expected to issue a bid for the removal of the old tank for dismantling in October.

Treasurer's Report

Solar Revenue – Ms. McMahon provided summaries of the solar revenue received from the Town of Dennis' 6MW plant at the capped landfill. She noted that the Town has noted a decline in revenue and therefore, there was a decline in estimated revenue for the District. However, the estimate for FY 2018 was conservative at \$100,000. The revenue received to date was slightly more than \$108,000.

Update on Personnel Code: Ms. McMahon noted that Mr. Lawton said that he would assist a bit more than what was necessary under the contract for the Job Descriptions. He did review the existing document and provided some edits. However, he was not familiar with the nuances of the District's benefits and conduct, operations, etc. Ms. McMahon anticipated having the rough draft to the Board the week before their next meeting (August).

Update on Water Billing Software: Ms. McMahon noted that the budget for replacing the software was \$30,000. She had been seeking an improved platform that would provide bill presentment, payment options and customer history. She said that she had seen a number of demonstrations however, the cost for one of the platforms that she was most impressed with was \$80,000 just for the initial setup. Most prices have been in the \$50,000 to \$80,000. She compared that to the current water billing software annual support of under \$2,000. She was going to review further to see if it was possible to get the software start-up underway and spread the cost of a period of time. It will be a question of just doing water billing software or are we looking to modernize the customer experience. There are so many customers asking to pay their bills over the phone with a credit card. The District is not equipped to handle that kind of data security. Ms. McMahon added that she would prefer to have the customer data and bill payments done remotely and not from the District's server. She said that people want to have electronic notification and presentment of water bills. Mr. Tuttle asked if it would save the District money and Ms. McMahon answered "not really". It is about customer service. Nowadays, customers have an expectation that they can pay their bills electronically.

Minutes: April 24, 2018

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board VOTED: 2-0-0 (PLM absent) to accept the minutes of April 24, 2018, as presented.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle, and duly seconded, the Board VOTED: 2-0-0 (PLM absent) to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk