

# **DENNIS WATER DISTRICT**

## *Board of Water Commissioners*

Minutes of Meeting held

August 23, 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 Commissioners Peter L. McDowell and Alan Tuttle was present. Also in attendance were David Larkowski, Superintendent and Sheryl A McMahon, Treasurer.

*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

## **Public Information**

### **Water Tank Update**

Mr. Larkowski advised that there was a funding shortfall to demolition the old tank in West Dennis. The bids for the work were opened the previous day. Six bids were received. The original estimate was \$125,000. The low bidder was \$108,400 and the highest was \$226,000. Mr. Larkowski requested that the Board to ask the voters at the Special District Meeting for \$125,000. He said that there is some site work to address once the tank debris is removed and he said the difference would allow them to do that work. The cell companies are still working on moving their equipment.

Mr. Larkowski requested that the Board vote to call for a Special District Meeting on September 25, 2018, to be held at Town Hall. Mr. Larkowski explained that since the District only needs a 25-voter quorum, and there are sometimes issues with attaining a quorum timely, it was thought that having it just prior to a Board of Selectmen's meeting on a Tuesday evening would bring more registered voters to a convenient location for the meeting. Ms. McMahon advised that the meeting warrant has to be posted two weeks in advance (Sept. 11). She also noted that the District's Finance Committee would also need to meet prior to the meeting to vote its recommendations.

### **Consider Articles for Special District Meeting to be held September 25, 2018**

(A) The Board considered placing an article on the Special District Meeting Warrant for the voters to consider authorizing the OPEB Trustee (Treasurer), in accordance with Chapter 32B, Section 20 (g), to invest or reinvest under the prudent investor rule established in Chapter 203C; (ii) section 23 of Chapter 32 and to consider placing an article that would authorize the District to pool its OPEB Trust Fund with the Town of Dennis OPEB Trust Fund in accordance with Chapter 32B, Section 20(k).

Ms. McMahon provided an explanation as to the statutory requirements that must be approved by the District voters in order for the Treasurer, and as the OPEB Trustee, to invest funds in a manner that would provide opportunity for greater returns on investment as opposed to those that are currently available under the more restrictive limitations imposed by Chapter 32B, Section 20(g). Ms. McMahon is requesting that the Board include an article on the warrant that would ask the voters to authorize investment of available and unallocated OPEB Trust Funds to be done under Chapter 203C which is more commonly referred to as the "Prudent Investor Rule". There was an in-depth discussion relative to the adoption of the vote, the identification of the "governing body", whether or not the action could be rescinded, etc. Ms. McMahon further explained that, according to her review with Attorney Marsh authorization to allow the District's OPEB Trust funds to join with the Town of Dennis' OPEB Trust is

by vote of the “governing board” which in this case is the Board of Water Commissioners. Ms. McMahon advised that the trustees for the Town of Dennis’ OPEB Trust would be meeting next week to formally review the request for the District to join the Town’s OPEB Trust for investment purposes. By joining with the Town the combined funds would likely provide greater investment opportunity and the District would benefit from the already negotiated management fees the Town has under contract with Rockland Trust. Mr. McDowell asked if there was anything in writing that referenced what Ms. McMahon had just explained or from her review with Attorney Marsh on the article. Ms. McMahon said there was not. She requested that the article be placed on the warrant at this time and there could be further review by the Board before the deadline for posting. She also noted that, if the Board reconsidered adoption of the article they could move to have it indefinitely postponed. On a motion made by Alan Tuttle and duly seconded, the Board **VOTED: 2-0-1 (PLM abstaining) to approve the Special District Warrant for a meeting to be held September 25, 2018, as presented.** An original of the warrant was distributed and signed by Commissioners Prue and Tuttle. Mr. McDowell stated that if some of the questions he had were clarified he might support it but, he was not prepared to do that now. Ms. McMahon noted for the record that the vote was to place the article on the warrant and a vote to recommend has not been taken.

B) To transfer a sum of money from “Free Cash” in addition to sums appropriated for the construction of a new water tank and demolition and removal of old water tank (Article 7 of the Annual District Meeting held April 26, 2016).

### **Leak Abatement Request – Cape Cottages Condo Trust, Acct. No. 00600, 143 Depot St, Dennis Port**

The Cape Cottages had a cottage in between buildings that had a considerable leak. District staff assisted the property owner in locating the leak and effected repairs which was billed. The total amount of original bill was \$1,496 and the abatement credit to be applied is calculated would be \$592.40. On a motion made by Peter L McDowell and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve a Leak Abatement in accordance with the Board’s Policy of \$592.40 to Account 00600, Cape Cottages Condo Trust.**

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Mr. Larkowski stated that he had a scheduled meeting with the Department of Agricultural Research to review testing to be conducted at well sites that are in close proximity of the electric company’s power line right-of-way. The meeting was postponed.

Service work continues but maintenance work on the distribution system is limited due to summer traffic. He noted that there are two water mains under the Swan River Bridge on Lower County Road. They are regularly inspected and as such it was noted that the 8” main is wrapped and it was coming off. The main was inspected and has deteriorated to such a point that the Superintendent is planning to replace it in the fall. It is about 80’ of pipe and will be insulated and re-wrapped. Chairman Prue noted that this is an original main dating back to 1946. This is the final main to be replaced that is hung under a bridge that goes into Dennis Port as all the rest are relatively new.

Mr. Larkowski responded to Mr. Tuttle’s question about State work being done in Dennis Port. He advised that it will include a considerable amount of water main work because the drainage work (due to ground water) and the contractor (Robert Our) will be doing that work and reconnecting individual water service lines to the new main. Hydrants will also be replaced by Our and paid for by the State.

The project begins at Shad Hole Road on Route 28 and ends just before the intersection with Upper County Road.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. McMahon reported that approximately 40% of the August water bills had been collected.

Having followed up on Mr. Tuttle's suggestion that she contact the Town regarding their MUNIS software to see if what water billing options might be available. Mr. Larkowski and she attended a conference call with the Town officials. An estimated cost of setting up a web-based water billing data system for the District, including customer web access for bill presentment and payment was all up-front costs was \$184,000 with annual maintenance as \$30,000 (+/-). The alternative proposal was to enter into a three-year contract for approximately \$71,000 per year with an initial up-front cost of \$16,000. Ms. McMahon advised that she has connected with the new owner/programmer who took over from the previous owner for the current water billing system. She is hopeful that he will be able to assist in providing patches and upgrades and is evaluating the possibility of transferring the system to a web-based platform in the relatively near future. She did not believe it would give the customer interface that is being sought but, that is very common and there a number of providers of that platform. There was a discussion about how it is the District customers who want to receive and pay their water bills electronically.

## **Minutes: July 26, 2018**

On a motion made by Alan Tuttle and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of July 26, 2018, as presented.***

## **Adjournment**

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn at 6:53 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk