

# DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

## *Board of Water Commissioners*

Minutes of Meeting held

November 13, 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 4:00 PM. Water Commissioner Paul F. Prue and Charles F. Crowell were present along with the following District officials and individuals:

David Larkowski, Superintendent  
James Ritchie, Asst. Superintendent

Ms. McMahon was absent from the meeting due to a death in the family.

Mr. Larkowski provided an update on the progress of the Iron and Manganese Removal Project in terms of work being done by the District as well as the general contractor, Kinsmen Corp. The filter vessels for the south plant have been delivered and the building erection should begin any day. If the weather holds out, the second set of filters should be set and the two buildings should be enclosed by year end.

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that while removing the water meter for the season as requested by Mr. Gentile of 150 Captain Chase Road, Account No. 01713, it was discovered that the meter was damaged and was probably leaking. It appears that Mr. Gentile affected repairs to the meter instead of notifying the District. The condition of the meter was such that the reading had not changed since it was last read for billing purposes. In fact, when the meter was tested it would not record unless the flow was above 5 ½ gpm. A look to the history we find the usage down since 2006 when the meter was not removed until February instead of in the fall as was usual. It was Mr. Larkowski's opinion that the meter froze while having been left in service over the late fall and early winter. If this was the case, it would be the third frozen meter at this property. The bottom of the meter may have cracked but not leaking. It is not uncommon to find meters with the bottom cracked but do not actually leak until some time later during the warmer months. He recommended that the Board fine Mr. Gentile for meter tampering and for a third frozen meter. This would result in charges to Mr. Gentile of approximately \$290. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED:** *to assess Account No. 01713, Mr. Gentile of 150 Captain Chase Road, Dennisport, a fine of \$100 for meter tampering and for a frozen meter in the third instance.*

The Board discussed whether or not the statutory assessment of \$100.00 was sufficient as punitive damages for damaging a water meter and for the potential loss of water revenue when they stop recording. The Board requested that the Superintendent poll other water departments as to how they assess fines for meter tampering and for how much and to report back his findings at a future meeting.

Mr. Larkowski brought to the Boards attention a request from the Dennis Fire Department to erect what they termed as a "non permanent structure" on District property at the West Dennis water tank for the purpose of storing rescue boats. Mr. Larkowski reminded the Board that the parking lot to the rear of the Fire Station is District property and the structure/boat storage would be constructed on the grass area at the rear of the parking lot and next to the water tank access gate. The Fire Department currently

utilizes the area for training and the parking of boat trailers. Although Mr. Larkowski stated that he has no objection to the Fire Department's temporary use of the area, he recommends that the Board not allow any structures to be constructed on the District's property, regardless of their permanency. Having free and unimpeded access around the water tank is very important when doing maintenance at the tank. While large maintenance projects are few and far between, he felt it was important to maintain the area as unencumbered space. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to deny the request of the Dennis Fire Department to construct a "non-permanent" boat housing structure on District property in the vicinity of the Fire Station on Rte. 28, West Dennis.***

The Superintendent advised the Board that there was a leak in the 3,000-gallon KOH tank at Corrosion Station #5. He explained that, since 1993 when the stations were first constructed and the tanks installed, this was the first one that has leaked. The tank was pumped out and a new one is on order. Before placing the order, the Superintendent inquired as to whether or not the tank could be repaired. While the response was affirmative, the manufacturer advised that the life expectancy of these tanks was 15 to 20 years and that repairs would not carry a warranty. Other Cape water departments were asked about their experiences with leaking tanks and it was reported that Chatham and Hyannis have had to replace tanks. The cost for pumping the contents of the tank and the replacement on an emergency basis is approximately \$11,000.00, not including labor. District employees will perform the work. Mr. Larkowski anticipates that the expense can be covered by the Station Maintenance line item within the Operating and Maintenance budget. However, he stated that this was an extraordinary expense and it may require a Reserve Fund transfer at year-end should the account run short. Mr. Larkowski noted that the life expectancy of these tanks will end over the next several years and he will be proposing that the District budget for future tank replacements. Planned replacement will be considerably less expensive than dealing with the chemical on an emergency basis.

The Superintendent briefly discussed the year-to-date pumping totals. He has estimated that the District will pump approximately 950,000,000 gallons by year-end. This is near-normal and a relatively conservative year for pumping. He anticipates that the water billing will meet the estimated revenue. Last year saw an above average year with 1.139 billion gallons pumped. The excess revenue generated helped create the \$781,691 in "free cash" that will be available for the FY 2010 budget.

The Board reviewed the Town of Dennis "No Heat Policy" as recently adopted by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Larkowski advised what services the District could provide in assisting residents who report no heat in their homes. When the Town asks for District assistance, we will help town officials whenever possible to secure properties during the no-heat event. This may result in a simple service call to turn off a water meter and possibly assist in draining the plumbing in order to prevent freezing. He proposes that the District provide the best possible service to the extent possible in a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that the final paint touch-ups at the Rte. 134 water tank was held up recently due to an inspection that found that lighting conduits had broken loose. It was noted during the painting project that some work would have to be done to the lights at some point. With this discovery, a change order to replace the entire lighting system on the tank, including the mounting and paint repairs, was issued. The painting contractor and their electrical contractor are due any day at the job site to effectuate these repairs. This will complete the painting project and the final payments, including the 5% retainage will be made.

With no further business before the Board, the Water Commissioners signed the Accounts Payable Warrants and on a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the open session of the meeting at 5:20 PM and to convene an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy for ongoing litigation in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B (3) and not to return to open session upon its conclusion. The Chairman having called for a roll call vote which was recorded as follows:***

***Edward A. Crowell – Yeah***

***Paul F. Prue – Yeah***

***Charles F. Crowell – Yeah***

For the record the Executive Session was recorded under two separate sessions one for subsection 2 and the other for subsection 3. The Executive Session was adjourned at approximately 5:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Larkowski, Superintendent