

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

May 27, 2010

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Police Station, Martin Training Room, 90 Bob Crowell Rd., S Dennis. The meeting was called to order by Paul F. Prue, Chairman at 6:00 PM. Also in attendance were Charles F. Crowell and Peter L. McDowell and the following District official:

David Larkowski, Superintendent

Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer

PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMENT:

Mr. Larkowski announced the upcoming District sponsored Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day to be held Saturday, June 5, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Tony Kent Arena.

CUSTOMER ISSUES:

Mr. Larkowski presented for the Board's consideration a review of a broken seal and reversed meter at the property of Paul E. Carr at 9 Carr Road, Dennisport. This was not the first incidence of unauthorized removal of the water meter from the service line and a formal and final written letter had been issued to Mr. Carr advising him of the infraction. On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell and duly seconded, the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to assess a \$100 fine to Paul E. Carr, Account No. 01065 for meter tampering in accordance with the provision of Chapter 165, Section 11.**

Ms. McMahon reviewed a request from Habitat for Humanity for the waiving of billing charges for the installation of a water service line at 25 Cross Street, Dennisport. The land was donated by a vote of Town Meeting to a non-profit for the development of an affordable home. A great deal of the construction materials and labor are donated by local vendors and volunteers. The Town of Dennis has waived the building permit fees for the project. Ms. McMahon stated that the affordability of the home is preserved by a deed rider in perpetuity. She stated that the cost of installing the water service line was waived for the only other home built by Habitat in the Town a number of years ago. Mr. McDowell requested a copy of that document. On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded the Board **VOTED (2-0-1 PLM abstaining) to waive the charges associated with the installation of a water service to 25 Cross Street, Dennisport.**

The Superintendent reviewed with the Board members a report published by Silent Spring Institute entitled "*Testing Drinking Water on Cape Cod for the Presence of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Other Emerging Contaminants*". Tests of 20 wells and two distributions systems supplying drinking water on Cape Cod found that 75 percent of the wells and both distribution systems had detectable levels of emerging contaminants such as pharmaceuticals and consumer product chemicals. Nine water districts on Cape Cod voluntarily participated in the study, including Dennis. The study provides some of the first information in the U.S. about impacts of septic systems on groundwater used for drinking water. The report claims that septic systems are the most likely source for most of the 18 chemicals detected, which include

nine pharmaceuticals, an insect repellent, halogenated organophosphate flame retardants and perfluorinated chemicals. The two most frequently detected chemicals were sulfamethoxazole, an antibiotic commonly used to treat urinary tract infections and pneumonia, and PFOS, used in stain-resistant and nonstick coatings, as well as fire-fighting foams. PFOS and the related compound PFOA, which was also detected in this study, are hormone disrupting compounds that have been associated at higher exposure levels with effects on the thyroid, mammary gland, cholesterol metabolism, immune system, cancer, and growth and development. Monitoring for the tested chemicals is not required and there are no regulatory standards for them.

Two of the District's supply wells were tested. Number 14 at Bakers Pond and Number 21 off Route 134 (behind Agway). These were selected due to their proximity to residential homes. Mr. Larkowski stated that he felt the District did fairly well compared to other towns tested. One drug and one chemical were detected but he wanted it noted for the record that these detections are in parts per trillion. To put it in context, the District pumps roughly 1 billion gallons per year and it would take 1,000 years for the District to pump 1 trillion gallons. He did not believe people needed to be cautious about these results because they are tested at such minute levels. He further stated that people are bombarded by chemicals daily in our homes and work places at much higher levels because of the products we come in contact with regularly. Over the years, the District has done a good job of increasing the protection of the water supply through land acquisition. He also noted that the Town of Dennis Land Bank program had also purchased several parcels for open space that also provide watershed protection.

The Superintendent said that the recommended disposal of medications has changed from the past practice of flushing down toilets. Educational materials are now calling for people to crush the medications and mix them with something undesirable such as cat litter and putting them in the regular household trash. He said that this information will be published from time to time in the District's newsletters and made available in pamphlets at the office.

Mr. Larkowski reiterated that there are no standard for laboratory testing for these emerging contaminants, detection limits or health advisories. Mr. McDowell commended Silent Spring for taking a look at the issue. He also noted that he had requested a history of the nitrate detections in the District wells. He noted that going back as far as 1993, 10 of the 18 wells in 2010 now had lower nitrate concentrations. He stated that he did not believe Silent Spring had a scientific basis to conclude that the contamination comes from septic systems because nitrates come from a lot of other sources.

The Superintendent then reviewed the bids or quotes received for potassium hydroxide (a/k/a KOH), sodium hypochlorite (a/k/a chlorine), gasoline and electricity. The District uses approximately 600,000 pounds of KOH. Mr. Larkowski also noted that our purchase of chlorine has increased now because it is used in the system as an oxidant for iron removal. On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to award the purchase of KOH to Borden Remington through a Barnstable County bid purchase at the quoted price.*** On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to award the purchase of chlorine to NBC Distributors through a Barnstable County bid purchase at the quoted price.***

Mr. Larkowski reviewed the current acquisition of gasoline for District vehicles. Generally, the Gulf station has the lowest price and the purchases are made through credit cards. The applicable

credit for federal fuel taxes are deducted on the monthly billing statement. Historically, the District has made out well compared to having a fixed bid price the same as the Town does. The District did have a purchase arrangement with the Town in the late 1980's or early 1990's. The Town has already entered into a contract for the purchase of its gasoline for FY 2011 at \$2.53 per gallon. No action was taken by the Board at this time.

In regards to a power purchase agreement (electricity), Mr. Larkowski reported that he is still waiting for more information from various suppliers. Our previous contracts have been through Power Options who serve as a power aggregator. Currently, the price is 10.08 cents with MunEnergy (through Massachusetts Municipal Association), the Town is with Cape Light Compact at 9.6 cents and Power Options is currently at 8.7 cents for a 3-year contract, 8.5 for a 2-year contract and 8.4 for a 1-year contract. He recommended the 3-year contract with power Solutions. However, Mr. McDowell felt that it may be beneficial to wait and make a decision at the next meeting in June. Mr. Larkowski stated that if a decision is not reached by July 1, the District's bills will fall to the default service and rate, whatever that may be at the time. There was a consensus to wait until the next meeting.

UPDATES:

Wind Energy Feasibility Study – Mr. Larkowski reported that the draft report should be available next month. The report will include photo simulations done from four locations; ¼ mile, ½ mile, ¾ mile and 1 mile. These simulations are computer generated from photos taken. He noted that a fifth photo was taken from the Town of Brewster, the closest residential development being in that town. However, the simulations will not be developed unless requested by the Water Commissioners at a future date. There are early indications that a 900 Kw turbine would probably meet the District's electrical power needs but a larger one might provide surplus power to be sold back to the grid.

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board (off agenda item) that there was an emergency break in a 10" water main that occurred in Yarmouth last Saturday. He reported that the water main is in very poor condition and that he hopes that the repair lasts through the summer so that approximately 300' can be replaced in the fall when the roads are less busy.

The Superintendent noted that the Planning Board hearing for the Metro PCS antenna lease on the West Dennis tank site is scheduled for June 7 under a special permit request. Metro PCS has not signed the lease yet and is waiting until they have permit-in-hand.

MINUTES OF 2/4, 2/25, 3/25, 4/7, 4/15 and 4/22:

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell and duly seconded the Board **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to approve the minutes of February 4, February 25, March 25, April 7, April 15 and April 22 as submitted.**

A motion was made by Peter L. McDowell to adjourn the open session and convene an EXECUTIVE SESSION for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 39, Section 23B (6) and not to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Charles F. Crowell. The Chairman then called for a roll call vote which is recorded as follows:

Peter L. McDowell “aye”
Charles F. Crowell “aye”
Paul F. Prue “aye”

The motion passed UNANIMOUSLY at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk