

# DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

## *Board of Water Commissioners*

Minutes of Meeting held

May 17, 2007

At approximately 2:30 PM, the Board of Water Commissioners, Superintendent and Treasurer met at the Brewster water treatment facility for a tour. The group was escorted by Brewster Water Department personnel who were familiar with the construction and operations of the plant.

The group then reconvened at the main office building, main offices at 80 Old Bass River Rd., S Dennis, do conduct their official monthly meeting which had been previously posted. The meeting was called to order by Edward A. Crowell, Chairman at 4:12 PM. Water Commissioner Paul F. Prue and Charles F. Crowell were present along with the following District officials:

David Larkowski, Superintendent  
Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer

Guests: Paul Covell, Chairman, Dennis Board of Health  
Diane Chamberlain, Dennis Board of Health, CWMP Task Force  
Terry Hayes, Dennis Health Director, CWMP Task Force  
Paul McCormick, Dennis Selectman

Mr. Larkowski provided an update on the pilot study being conducted on the comparison of two treatment types for the removal of iron and manganese which were LayneOx and Greensand Plus. Graphs indicating the early results on the comparative study show that the Greensand is going to result in a better quality. Earth Tech has evaluated the process and will provide a formal report once all the data is collected and analyzed. He expected the final report in approximately three weeks.

There was a discussion regarding Well #17 and the possibility of utilizing it as a drinking water source once iron removal treatment facilities were available. There was a question as to whether or not the well could be permitted through the Department of Environmental Protection. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Superintendent to request that Earth Tech, Inc., evaluate the possibility of permitting Well #17 at a cost not to exceed \$2,750.***

Diane Chamberlain, a member of the Board of Health as well as the Comprehensive Wastewater Management (CWMP) Task Force, and Terry Hayes, Town of Dennis Health

Director and a member of the CWMP Task Force joined the meeting. Ms. Chamberlain expressed her concerns regarding the direction she believed the Task Force was headed. She commented that she was impressed with the group from the University of Massachusetts School of Marine and Science Technology as they had recently made a presentation to the Task Force regarding the Massachusetts Estuaries Project. She expressed concerns that certain members are making statements, particularly about Title V septic systems, that are not accurate. Ms. Chamberlain stated that one member recently announced that he had contacted Representative Cleon Turner directly about the possibility of amending the Community Preservation Act in order to allow communities to divert money to public safety and wastewater management initiatives. She also expressed concerns that some members of the Task Force are desirous of investigating the possibility of regionalizing wastewater management with Yarmouth, Brewster and or Harwich. There was also some discussion regarding the role of the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative. In particular the Steering Committee, and that they are making recommendations that are being simply “rubber stamped” by towns such as Bourne, Falmouth and Brewster. Ms. Chamberlain shared her impressions of the Wastewater Management financial workshop that was held several weeks ago in Hyannis. There were speakers in attendance from other states. It was clear that some communities are simply not able to handle wastewater management on their own. It will also require the raising of taxes in order to fund these types of projects. There seemed to be a sense from that meeting that eligibility for low or no interest loans through the Massachusetts Wastewater Pollution Abatement Trust would be tied to participation in a regional wastewater plan. Ms. Chamberlain said that she believes that the Town or the District needs to set up the plan for managing and financing future wastewater needs. Mr. Covell recommended that the Boards of Selectmen, Health, Water Commission and the Finance Committee be brought together to discuss how the wastewater management issues in the Town are going to be handled going forward. He said that the larger question that needs to be answered is, “How does the Town of Dennis want to handle wastewater management?” He felt it could be the Town, Water District or perhaps even a hybrid District. There was further discussion as to how the system, whatever it might be, would be funded. Mr. Hayes suggested that perhaps every property owner could be assessed a fee which would support an operation that would handle all of their septic system issues. The community has to be certain of what it wants to include in a wastewater management plan. It was suggested that the relevant committees schedule a meeting in July to discuss the scope of this issue and determine which entity would be best to management the future of wastewater.

Following further discussion, and on a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize the Superintendent and Treasurer to investigate the possibility and cost of hiring a consultant to conduct and overview***

***study on the pros and cons of the District becoming the responsible entity for wastewater management in the Town of Dennis.***

Ms. McMahon stated that, with the resignation of Gene Tully as the Town's representative to the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative, there has not been anyone interested in stepping up to fill that vacancy. She expressed her concern that it is important for the Town as well as the CWMP Task Force to have an understanding of the Collaborative initiatives and activities. Ms. McMahon noted that representative to the Collaborative is an appointment by the Town Board of Selectmen. She did not believe that her appointment by the Selectmen would be in conflict with her role as Treasurer. However, she did want to ask the Water Commissioners permission to take the time necessary from her regular duties to attend the meetings. She felt that serving in this capacity would help bring information to the District, Board of Selectmen and the Task Force. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board of Water Commissioner's ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to authorize Sheryl McMahon to accept appointment by the Board of Selectmen as the Town of Dennis' representative to the Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative.***

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board of Water Commissioners that twenty-three contractors had requested specifications for the painting of the 6-million gallon tank on Route 134. There had been a mandatory pre-construction meeting prior to submission of bids. Four contractors met at the appointed time for the pre-bid meeting. Nine bids were received. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to award painting the exterior of the 6-million gallon standpipe to Amstar, Inc., as the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.***

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that there has been an issue over the past several years with the installation of defective plastic pipe used in water services. To date, the District has been successful in recovering the costs of the pipe and associated labor costs when the services have had to be replaced. However, there may come a time when that is obtaining reimbursement is no longer possible. Currently the Rules and Regulations state that the water service is guaranteed by the District for a year. Mr. Larkowski stated that with plastic pipe a water service should last at least ten years from the date of installation. On a motion made by Paul F. Prue, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to amend the Board of Water Commissioner's Rules and Regulations Section 100.2 by providing a warranty of ten years on the installation of a new or upgraded water service line and to warranty all other repairs for a period of one year.***

Mr. Larkowski provided an update on the request for the installation of a fire hydrant on Route 6. He stated that there is a \$1,000 cost for the installation of an access gate as well as materials, hydrant and labor at \$8,000. The State will require the rental of road safety

equipment at a cost of \$800 as well as the hiring of State Police detail at \$800. He further stated that he has provided these costs to the Fire Department. No action has been taken by the Town and Mr. Larkowski was not aware of any municipal funding available for them to undertake this project. There was no action take by the Board at this time.

Ms. McMahon advised that the closing for the last phase of the purchase of a watershed preservation restriction on land in the Town of Brewster will be held in June. Brewster's funding through state grants requires them to close before June 30. This will expend the last of the \$2.5 million appropriated in April 2006 for the purchase of the old drive-in on Hokum Rock Road and the 60+ acres of watershed preservation in Brewster. Ms. McMahon said she expects that the bond will be issued in July in order to pay for the temporary note issued last year.

Mr. Larkowski reviewed an incident that happened in the Town of Spencer involving an over treatment of KOH into the water distribution system. He emphasized that this can happen in any town due to a number of possible reasons. However, he pointed out that the District has backup systems in place to prevent this problem. In Spencer, the system was in a manual override and that is why the alarm did not react. He also noted that the District has in-line detectors.

Mr. Prue inquired as to what management was doing to maximize energy efficiency so as to help contain costs. Mr. Larkowski advised that an upgrade of four motor control panels had been completed and that variable speed drives were also going to be installed. Unfortunately, the District's major consumption of electricity is due to the pumps and the demand that customers put on the system for water. Due to the unpredictability of the weather, the usage is also unpredictable.

With no further business before the Board, the Water Commissioners signed the Accounts Payable Warrants and on a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn their meeting at 6:05 PM.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk