

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

September 22, 2011

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Police Station, 96 Bob Crowell Rd, S Dennis. The meeting was called to order by Paul F. Prue, Chairman at 6:02 PM. Also in attendance were Charles F. Crowell and Peter L. McDowell and the following District official:

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer

David Larkowski, Superintendent

PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMENT None

CONSIDER REQUEST OF DENNIS CONSERVATION TRUST TO PARTICIPATE IN ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 11 ACRES OF LAND AT CLAY AND GRASSY PONDS.

Chairman Prue called for second item on the agenda. He announced that he is a member of the Board of Directors for the Dennis Conservation Trust (DCT) and would therefore recuse himself for the remainder of the topic discussion. Mr. Crowell assumed the chair. Mark Robinson, Director, Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts (Compact) presented an overview of a proposal for the joint acquisition of approximately 11 acres of land at Clay and Grassy Ponds. He explained how the Dennis Conservation Trust is trying to coordinate the application of state grants, a contribution from the Dennis Water District and the Community Preservation Fund, as this land is within the watershed for public water supply. The acquisition of this land was a prior proposal last year wherein the District was asked to fund approximately 50% of the purchase price.

Mr. Robinson explained that the Compact was seeking to possibly have the District to schedule a Special District Meeting in order to close on the sale by January 1, 2012. He explained that timing the coordination of the grants and municipal appropriations was important to the success of funding the acquisition.

The Compact is seeking a cooperative joint funding purchase with Community Preservation Funds, state land grant, Dennis Conservation Trust, Division of Fisheries and Game and the Dennis Water District. Mr. Robinson explained that all of these grants are needed to be awarded simultaneously in order to make the acquisition. He stated that they were seeking \$150,000 from the District.

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Mr. Larkowski said that he was considering applying for a Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant under the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Mr. Robinson noted that he had had conversations with the Executive Office about the grants and learned that it is not possible for an entity to be awarded more than one state grant for the same acquisition project.

Mr. Larkowski said that the proposal is substantially different from the proposal last year in that the District is being asked for a much reduced contribution as last year it was for approximately one-half the purchase price.

The Board members agreed to schedule the item for their next regular meeting on October 27, 2011.

CONSIDER REQUEST BY TOWN OF DENNIS TO CORRECT RECORDED DEEDS FOR HEMLOCK LANE

Mr. Joseph Rodricks reviewed with the Board of Water Commissioners a request by Board of Selectmen to correct the conveyance of a portion of Hemlock Lane which was to provide for a road layout over a portion of Hemlock Lane but, was not included in the original extension over Water District property. A title search by a local attorney revealed that the conveyance was flawed and it appears that a parcel of land was transferred to the District that was not authorized by the Town or to be assumed by the District. Ms McMahon said she was in consultation with Attorney Perrino in order to ascertain what exactly needs to be recorded to clarify the titles. Mr. McDowell suggested that by consensus the water commissioners cooperate fully with counsel and the town engineer in order to execute whatever action needs to be done in order to resolve the issues for the Town and particularly for the abutters.

Mr. Larkowski explained that there are surplus water quality testing equipment and supply materials and gear in that the District is no longer involved in under taking the samples used for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project as surplus. The Water District owns the 13' skiff and motor along with an aluminum boat and an electric motor and two trailers. On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: declare water quality testing equipment and supply materials used for the Massachusetts Estuaries Project as surplus and donate to them Town of Dennis.***

***DISCUSSION ON MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM AND IMPLICATIONS
FOR DENNIS WATER DISTRICT***

Ms. McMahon provided an update on Municipal Health Insurance Reform (MHIR) and what the possible implications may mean to employees, retirees and the District's budget. The Cape Cod Municipal Health Group is working as quickly as possible to make a recommendation on the plan design changes necessary to meet the requirements of the MHIR. The plans will have new or increased deductibles and will also have increased co-pays. The deductibles will have maximum per person/family. The changes are intended to mimic the benchmark plan provided to state employees (and municipal entities) provided by the Group Insurance Commission. There is a procedure and methodology for implementing these changes particularly with bargaining units. It will require discussions with employees to keep them informed. The District could disassociate from the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group and purchase our own insurance but, being such a small group of employees the cost would be very expensive. Ms. McMahon said that she would be reporting back to the Commissioners as soon as more definitive action and votes are taken by the Board of Directors for the Group. She noted that there is a section of the Reform Act that requires municipalities to provide a mitigation plan for the employees in the first year. Ms. McMahon further noted that the plan designs will likely lower the premiums thereby saving the District money as some of the cost is shifted to the subscriber. Mr. McDowell said that he appreciated the fact that if the current implementation schedule is realized it may mean a monetary benefit to the District for the ensuing fiscal year. Ms. McMahon said that the plan design changes will be in place for July 1, 2012. Another requirement of the MHIR is that all eligible and qualified retirees must enroll in Medicare Part B as of July 1. Any penalties for late enrollment must be paid for by the District. Ms. McMahon did not believe that a Special District Meeting would be necessary.

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM.