

# DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

## *Board of Water Commissioners*

Minutes of Meeting held

November 17, 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 6:00 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**

Mr. McDowell announced that the form for removing a customer's name from the CodeRED (a/k/a Reverse 9-1-1) calling system is now available on the District's website as well as the Town of Dennis.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN REQUEST TO PLACE ARTICLE ON ANNUAL WARRANT FOR TRANSFER OF LAND**

The Board of Selectmen is seeking the placement of an article on the Annual District Meeting Warrant to request approval of a transfer of approximately one acre of land at the intersection of Airline Road and Rte. 134 for traffic mitigation and to seek the necessary special legislation under Article 97 of the state constitution. Paul R. McCormick, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen apologized for an administrative miscommunication with the various department officials familiar with the request and therefore, they were not able to be present this evening to discuss the request. It was noted that this conveyance has been discussed before.

### **MUNICIPAL HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION**

Ms. McMahon distributed information regarding plan design changes for health insurance plans for public employees. The new legislation provides for an expedited method of negotiating plan design changes with collective bargaining units. Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) is evaluating design changes that will essentially mimic the most popular plan that state employees/retirees are currently enrolled. She described the preferred provider plans. Previously, there were no deductibles and co-pays were as low as \$10 for a primary doctor visit. The new plan designs will eliminate the Rate Saver Plans (significantly higher co-pays). The deductible will now be, for all plans, \$250 per person, \$750 per person. Primary doctor visits will be \$20 and specialist will now be \$35. Emergency Room co-pay is now \$100. New to the plans is a maximum out-of-pocket limit which includes the deductible and co-pays. It is \$2,000 per person and \$4,000 per family. There will be eventually four plans. Blue Cross Blue Shield will offer an HMO and a PPO and Harvard Pilgrim will also offer an HMO and a PPO. The District does not offer the Master Health and Master Health Plus plans within the menu of plans offered by the CCMHG.

The second major component of the legislation requires all public employers to enroll their Medicare B eligible retirees (and their spouses) to enroll in Medicare B. Any penalties for late enrollees will be absorbed by the District. If they are not Medicare B eligible, they must remain on

the active plan. This legislation trumps the fact that the District adopted Section 18A which only required new retirees to enroll. There are five retirees that will have to enroll in Medicare B. Ms. McMahon provided an analysis of the cost impact to the District as well as to the retirees as a result of having to enroll in Medicare Part B and selecting a medi-gap plan offered by CCMHG.

Ms. McMahon reviewed the possibility and implementation of a Mitigation Plan that is authorized by the statute. The Mitigation Proposal can be funded with up to 25% of the cost savings (as defined in the statute) estimated between the new rates and what the rates would have been without the changes in the plan design. The preliminary savings for the active employees is approximately \$36,000 (at current rates) which does not include the savings for moving eligible retirees to Medicare B.

The Treasurer advised that the actual proposed premium rates will not be available until a professional actuary reviews the data and provides a recommendation to the CCMHG.

Also reviewed was the possibility of establishing Flexible Spending Accounts for employees to dedicate pre-tax dollars for future expenditure on qualified expenses. The IRS allows the establishment of these accounts however; the drawback is that the funds not expended in the individual accounts are transferred to the District. The FSA plan administration is funded by a monthly fee paid by the employee.

#### ***PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING WASTEWATER***

Mr. McDowell reported on a meeting he attended in which six scientists had reviewed the SMAST technical reporting and evaluated the science supporting the TMDL for Nitrogen reports being conducted on Cape Cod estuaries. Selectman Chairman McCormick confirmed that the review panel found the science behind the model to be sound. The presentation of the review is available through the Town's website.

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk  
Dennis Water District