

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT
*Joint Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners and
District Finance Committee*
Minutes of Meeting held
February 4, 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. Also in attendance were Charles F. Crowell and Peter L. McDowell.

Those in attendance were David Talbott, John Shea, Greg Stone, James Plath and Peter J. Nyberg. The reading of the 2009 meeting minutes was deferred.

Chairman Prue called the meeting to order and then turned the meeting over to District Finance Committee Chairman Talbott.

Chairman Talbott then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Larkowski for an explanation of the history and process of expanding of the District in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 of Chapter 277 of the Acts of 1945.

Mr. Larkowski reviewed a map outlining the area of Town which lies outside of the District. The property owners of the 11 private parcels outside of the District are not able to vote in a District election or meeting. There are several properties that have water service which is technically not permitted. Lastly, when combining the election process with the Town, it would create the need for a separate voters list and a separate ballot.

The draft article had been previously distributed to the Finance Committee members. Chairman Talbott called for a motion to accept Article 1 as presented for the Special District Meeting Warrant for February 25, 2010. It was moved by Peter J. Nyberg, and duly seconded.

Mr. McDowell offered a correction through Chairman Talbott that the Finance Committee a recommendation to the District Meeting as opposed to the motion which is to “accept” the motion.

On a motion made by James Plath, and duly seconded, the Finance Committee members
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to recommend the article as printed in the warrant.

Chairman Talbott turned the floor over to Mr. Larkowski for an explanation of Article 2. The Superintendent explained that the article seeks funding to conduct a Wind Power Feasibility Study. Historically, it was not economically feasible for the District to implement develop wind power as an energy source because the wind mill generating the power would have to be located at each individual location and there are approximately 36 separately metered facilities. With “net metering” regulations now in place it will enable the District to put up one or more wind turbines that can generate power into the system for which the District would receive credit. A request for proposals has already been issued by the District for a feasibility study by a professional consultant. He further explained that the District had applied for a site assessment grant through the Massachusetts Technology Cooperative however, it was denied because the zoning was inadequate for the size of the wind turbine necessary for the project. Mr. Larkowski described the focus area for the study and a map illustrating the area

had been previously distributed to the Committee. The District owns approximately 350 acres of land in the area abutting the town lines of Dennis, Brewster and Harwich.

Mr. Larkowski advised that there are two significant hurdles to pass in developing the area as a wind resource. The first is the lack of appropriate zoning. He stated that the Town appears to be moving forward with an amendment to the zoning which would enable the size of wind turbine the District is currently anticipating to be constructed. He anticipates that the zoning article will be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting. The second hurdle is obtaining a permit from Old Kings Highway Regional Historic District (OKH). Although there are these issues to be resolved and it may take a couple of years, the staff and Board of Water Commissioners it was worth the District investment of its own funds to move the process forward and put us a few years ahead in the development of wind energy. If the District waits for grants, and there is never much assurance as to how much and when the funds will be made available.

Superintendent Larkowski advised that the staff has reviewed the feasibility study proposals and recommends that the Board of Water Commissioners vote to approve an appropriation of \$75,000 for the Wind Power Feasibility Study including the cost of erecting a meteorological tower and or sodar as maybe necessary for the study. On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to recommend an appropriation and transfer of \$75,000 from Free Cash for conducting a Wind Power Feasibility Study (Article 2).***

Further discussion ensued regarding the difference between what might be awarded by the Board of Water Commissioners for the consultant's contract and the \$75,000 to be appropriated. Mr. Larkowski advised that the difference is approximately \$13,500. He stated that the District needs some additional information in order to present a project to OKH. Mr. McDowell advised that the OKH Commission can exempt or reduce certain areas of the District from compliance with certain aspect of the "Act". He thought that perhaps the OKH could accept a wind turbine proposed in an area where there are no neighborhoods in order to save upwards of \$240,000 in electrical costs.

A motion was made by Chairman Talbott, and duly seconded: ***to recommend the transfer and appropriation of \$75,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of the article (Article 2).*** Discussion ensued. The Free Cash balance as of July 1, 2009, is \$1,133,545. Mr. Larkowski advised that the anticipated height of a wind turbine on the District's property will be 388 feet to the top of the blade. There are many things contingent on development of the project such as available wind, feasibility of construction and the economic viability. Chairman Talbott called for the vote which passed ***UNANIMOUSLY.***

Chairman Talbott asked for a status report on the FY 2011 Budget. Mr. Larkowski advised that the Operating Budget has decreased approximately 3% mostly due to decreases in chemical costs, electrical and that there are no wage increases proposed for personnel.

On a motion made by James Plath, and duly seconded, the Finance Committee ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 PM.***

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to direct the District Clerk to post a Warrant calling for a Special District Meeting for February 25, 2010, at the Dennis Senior Center at 7:00 PM and that the Warrant include the recommendations of the Board of Water Commissioners and District Finance Committee and further to sign the

original Warrant upon notification by the Clerk that it is available and to authorize the Clerk to use a digital facsimile of the Water Commissioners' signatures on the certified copies of the Warrant.

Prior to adjournment, the Board discussed the proposals received for the Wind Power Feasibility Study. They discussed the time line for awarding the contract. Discussion on the scope and need for an avian study as part of the feasibility study ensued. There was a consensus amongst the Board members to schedule the awarding of the study until February 25, 2010.

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk