

BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2018 AT THE WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE.

PRESENT WERE: Board of Water Commissioners: Chairman David Jones and Commissioner Bassett, and Commissioner Whitmore. Also present: Superintendent Thomas Rooney.

- Meeting called to order at 2:31 P.M.
- Warrants and payrolls signed.
- Collectors End of Month Report reviewed and signed
- Superintendent's Projects Report reviewed

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to accept the previous Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to accept the Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2018, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously.**

Solar Panel Update

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Barnstable Town Collector Maureen Niemi had provided him with a breakdown of the Personal Property Tax payments received by the Town from Marina Energy L.L.C.--the owner of the solar panels located on District Property. He went on to inform the Board that the Town had not received any payments for FY2016 Person Property Taxes, and that the unpaid balance for FY2016 owed by Marina Energy is \$9,507.52. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that Marina Energy made two payments in the amount of \$1,882.04 and \$5,431.60, a total \$7,313.64 for the FY2017 Personal Property Tax bill, but a balance of \$83.63 remained unpaid. He further explained that no payments have been made for the FY2018 Personal Property Tax bill, and the amount owed as of 2/1/18 is \$5,468.35.

Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the Town of Barnstable remitted \$1,811.33 to the Barnstable Fire District from the \$7,313.64 paid by Marina Energy for FY2017 Personal Property Taxes.

Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the Barnstable Fire District had previously returned \$487.71 to Marina Energy from the first FY2017 payment of \$1882.04. He explained that the District should remit \$1,323.62 from the second payment of \$5,431.60. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that he had discussed the issue with Attorney Charles Sabatt in regard to the Tax reimbursement, and Mr. Sabatt recommended returning the \$1,323.62 to Marina Energy. The Board of Water Commissioners approved the return of funds to Marina Energy.

Capital Improvement Projects

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Invitation to Bid for the Cleaning, Painting, and Rehabilitation of Water Storage Tanks 2 and 3 had been issued. He informed the Board that the bid opening for the project would be held on February 15, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the Office Windows, Doors, Trim and Siding Project 2018 Invitation to Bid had been issued. He informed the Board that the bid opening would be held on March 8, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Abatement Request

Superintendent Rooney presented the Board with additional information provided by the owner of 11 Freezer Road requested by the Board. The Board reviewed the original request, and the additional information provided by the home owner. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the customer was billed in the amount of \$426.12 for 86,000 gallons of usage. He went on to say that charging the customer for their usage at the lowest rate would reduce the usage charge to \$288.10, a difference of \$138.02. Chairman Jones asked Superintendent Rooney for his recommendation. Mr. Rooney replied that he felt that based upon the circumstances, a \$100.00 abatement would be adequate. Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve a one-time abatement. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to grant a one-time abatement of \$100.00 dollars, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously**.

FY-19 Draft Budget and Capital Budget Review with the Prudential Committee

The Board discussed the replacement of a Water Department vehicle. Chairman Jones asked if the vehicle purchase had been approved by the Board. Superintendent Rooney replied that the Board had approved the vehicle replacement. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the District's auditor found funds from unexpended Articles in the amount of approximately \$30,000.00 dollars that could be used for any purpose. The Board discussed the merits of the vehicle purchase. Superintendent Rooney stated his opinion that the vehicle would benefit the Department in emergency situations. The Board reviewed the Operations Budget for the Water Department. Chairman Jones stated his opinion that 2.5 percent increase seemed appropriate. Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the cost of goods and services is increasing. Commissioner Bassett asked if the previous year's Operation Budget was level funded? Superintendent Rooney responded that the previous year's increase was 1.6 percent. Chairman Jones asked what the savings would be if salaries were to be reduced by .5 percent. Mr. Rooney responded that the savings would be approximately \$1900.00. The Board discussed the increase in Temporary Wages. The Board also discussed issuing bonuses instead of pay raises.

The members of the Prudential Committee joined the Board of Water Commissioners Meeting to discuss Capital Budget items. The Boards discussed the road improvements planned for the center of Barnstable Village, and the Water Department's proposed improvements. Prudential Committee Chairman asked Superintendent Rooney what the balance of the Department's Stabilization Account. Mr. Rooney informed Mr. Jones that the current balance was \$127,800.00 dollars. Mr. Jones asked if the Water Department had any sun-setting Articles. Mr. Rooney informed Mr. Jones that there was none. Mr. Jones asked if the Prudential Committee members had any comments about the FY-19 Operations Budget. Committee member Eastman asked about the need for the Clerical Assistant? Mr. Rooney explained the need for the Clerical Assistant. Mr. Jones expressed his opposition to replacing the Water Department Vehicle, and suggested that mileage stipend be paid instead. The Boards discussed the availability of unused funds in the amount of \$32,000.00. Prudential Committee Chairman Jones asked if there were any other questions for the Board of Water Commissioners? There were no other questions.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

Superintendent Rooney provided the Board with the results of the additional sampling done around the District's wells. Mr. Rooney asked the Board if the Board would like him to contact Vineyard Wind to express the District's concerns about the location of the projects electrical equipment. Chairman Jones suggested that Mr. Rooney contact the Town of Barnstable's Assistant Town Attorney to get his opinion. He also suggested that Mr. Rooney contact Vineyardwind to get the District's concerns on record.

There being no further business, Chairman Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Rooney