

## **BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

March 3, 2020 AT THE WATER DEPARTMENT OFFICE.

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

- Meeting called to order at 2:32 P.M.
- Warrants and payrolls signed.

Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve previous Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Bassett **motioned** to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2020, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously.**

### **FY-21 Draft Articles and Motions**

Superintendent Rooney discussed the need for an Article to provide funding for roof repairs to Pumping Station #3 & #4. Mr. Rooney discussed the borrowing authorization needed at the District's Annual Meeting as a condition to obtain emergency funding from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.

### **FY-21 Proposed Operations Budget**

The Board did not choose to discuss any revisions to the previously approved draft.

### **Capital Projects Update**

Chairman Jones asked about the roof repairs needed for Treatment #2. Superintendent Rooney explained that the funds are available, and that the project will go out to bid soon. Senior Operator Ron Tivey informed the Board that the roof was not leaking at this time. Superintendent Rooney explained remaining funds in two Articles that are due to sunset June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Board granted permission for the Hydraulic Modeling Article to be extended because the modeling has not been completed. Mr. Rooney discussed the use of remaining funds from Office and Building Improvements Article to make repairs to the edge of the parking area on the south side of the building. Chairman Jones asked Mr. Rooney if he had consulted with the District's Treasurer. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that he had, and that the expenditure was appropriate for the funds available. The Board approved the use of \$4,000.00 to repair the asphalt. Mr. Rooney explained the status of all the Departments current Articles.

### **Grant Application**

Superintendent Rooney presented the Board with a copy of the letter sent to the State of Massachusetts from the District explaining the breakdown of which items on the funding assistance request for the remediation PFAS contamination are needed on an emergency basis. Mr. Rooney explained that the District informed the State that the District is seeking funds for design and construction related to the rehabilitation of Well #1. He went on to explain that the District is seeking to begin the design of a treatment system for Wells #2 & #5. Mr. Rooney explained additional treatment needed to remediate PFAS at Wells #3 & #4 would be pushed out into the future. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that District's request would be in the top tier of needed funds.

Superintendent Rooney explained that the District would be required to have approval from the voters at Annual District Meeting to borrow the amount needed for the project, including design and permitting. The District will need to have a shovel ready project to qualify for the funding.

Chairman Jones asked if the schedule should be accelerated. He suggested that the borrowing authorization include the monies needed to complete the construction of Well #1, and the design and permitting of treatment for Wells #2 & #5. Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the total for the Article should be \$2,483,000.00 dollars. Mr. Rooney stated that the State Revolving Fund Loans are at zero percent, and the District may be able to borrow at 2% to 3% without the State's assistance.

Chairman Jones expressed his opinion that the Water Department should move forward with the rehabilitation of Well #1, and that the District should not allow the State's deliberations to delay the project.

### **Water Quality**

Superintendent Rooney informed that Board that the Department has adjusted the output of Well #2 to increase the proportion of water blended with Well #5 to reduce the PFAS levels in finished water leaving the wellfield. Chairman Jones asked if the confirmatory sample results taken after the blending adjustment have been received. Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the results have not been received. Mr. Rooney stated that the Department will need to reliably demonstrate that the water produced will reliably remain below 20 parts per trillion for the total of six PFAS chemicals.

Chairman Jones asked Superintendent Rooney if the "Soft Public Notice" that MassDEP is asking for has been approved. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the Southeast Region of MassDEP has not decided on the wording for the Notice. Mr. Rooney also review recent developments with the process to develop a Maximum Containment Level Regulation for the State. He informed the Board that Massachusetts Water Works Association has notified that State that the Association view the development of a PFAS Regulation is premature. MWWA recommends that MassDEP wait until the United States Environmental Protection Agency develops a country wide Maximum Containment Levels based upon scientific studies that have not yet been completed. MWWA understands that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental is proceeding with an "Abundance of Caution," but it contends that Massachusetts will need to comply with a Federal PFAS Regulation when it is enacted regarding the levels of PFAS in drinking water. After the Federal Standard is established, the State of Massachusetts can impose stricter standards based upon the scientific data used to develop the Federal Regulation if it chooses.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the MassDEP is instructing public water suppliers treat the current Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline as a Regulation. MWWA contends that MassDEP has not properly evaluated the burdens that this policy places on water suppliers, and that stakeholder input should be considered in the determination process for Guidelines and Regulations. Mr. Rooney also discussed the latest sampling results for PFAS chemicals. Mr. Rooney discussed the need to treat the effluent from wastewater effluent to protect the drinking water.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the National Rural Water Association is advocating the water systems with PFAS contamination issues participate in a Class Action Lawsuit being filed against the manufacturers of PFAS chemicals seeking reimbursement for PFAS mitigation. Superintendent Rooney suggested that the lawsuit could provide financial relief to the District Residents for the cost of PFAS treatment from the companies who profited from the production of these chemicals. After some discussion, Chairman Jones asked for a Motion from the Board to authorize the Superintendent to investigate participation in the Lawsuit. Chairman Jones **motioned** that the District participate in the National Rural Water Association Lawsuit, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously**.

**Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair**

The Board discussed the lack of a response from Barnstable County to the letter sent requesting that the Barnstable County Fire Training Academy Fire site be capped with asphalt to reduce PFAS contaminants entering the groundwater. The Board asked for an explanation of the Emergency Repair made on Hyannis Road.

There being no further business, Chairman Jones asked for a motion to adjourn the Meeting. Commissioner Bassett **motioned** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Chairman Jones. The **motion passed unanimously**. The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
Thomas Rooney