

BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2020 Video Conference Meeting.

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 Whitmore **motioned** to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2020, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously.**

Water System Improvements

Superintendent Rooney discussed rehabilitation and cleaning of Well #2. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the well pump, well column, and two drive shafts needed to be replaced. Chairman Jones asked what the additional repairs would cost? Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the pump replacement and repairs will add \$9,712.00. He went on to say that the need for column and pump replacement is commonly found during well redevelopments. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the electric motor that drives the water pump did not require any repairs. Commissioner Bassett asked how old is the motor? Mr. Rooney replied that he believes that the motor is 13 or 14 years old.

Superintendent Rooney described the installation of a new fire hydrant at the intersection of Millway and Route 6A. He also described the relocation, and replacement of hydrant on Millway. Mr. Rooney also described the addition of two, new to the water system, line gates on either side of relocated hydrant on Millway.

Mr. Rooney also discussed the need to replace the interconnection with Town of Yarmouth's water system. Mr. Rooney discussed the need to create Interconnection Agreements with neighboring water systems. Interconnection Agreements spell out the terms of water sharing in an emergency.

Mr. Rooney discussed the two proposed Articles for the upcoming Annual District Meeting. The first Article will provide authorization for the District to borrow \$2,843,000.00 for the reconstruction of the pumping station at Well #1. The second Article will authorize the Water Department to transfer \$60,00.00 from the Water Department's System Improvement Account into an FY21 Article for roof repairs at Wells #3 & #4.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that roadway changes to raise Commerce Road 5 feet are being considered by the Town of Barnstable. Mr. Rooney also discussed the replacement of the Department's SCADA computer.

Capital Projects Update

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the plans and specifications for the KOH (potassium hydroxide) tank replacement at Treatment #1/Well#4 are nearing completion. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the project is projected to go out to bid in July. Commissioner Whitmore asked why it would take so long? Mr. Rooney explained that the project could not begin until after the upcoming Summer season.

Superintendent Rooney discussed repairs to the parking lot at the District Office parking area. The asphalt is being undermined by erosion so berms will be added to channel the water to a drainage area at the lowest corner.

The Board discussed the Water Department's funds available in the Water Department's Stabilization Account, and the Water System Improvement Account.

Superintendent Rooney discussed the need to determine the correct motor and pump for Well #1. He discussed the hydraulic modeling investigation that is underway to determine the best configuration of main connections from the pumping station.

Grant Application

Superintendent Rooney discussed the planned use of an FY20 Water System Improvement Article to facilitate the development of plans and specifications for Well #1.

Commissioner Whitmore asked if the plans were needed in advance of applying for the grant. Mr. Rooney explained that the plans are needed to apply for a grant for leftover FY19 budget funds from the State of Massachusetts. Commissioner Bassett asked when the grant application needs to be submitted. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the grant application with the plans and specifications for a "shovel ready project" need to be submitted by the end of July. Ms. Bassett asked how long it will take for the funds be distributed. Mr. Rooney replied that the funds should be released by the end of December. Chairman Jones asked if the application would qualify the District for State Revolving Fund zero percent loans? Mr. Rooney explained that the loan financing comes from a different agency, and that the separate application for borrowing will need to be completed by the end of August for the following fiscal year. Chairman Jones asked if the District Treasurer would secure loans from other lenders in case the SRF loan does not come through? Mr. Rooney explained that the District will need to supply proof of the ability to borrow the funds needed for the project as part the application for the funding. Mr. Rooney presented the Board with a draft notice to the District residents explaining the proposed expenditures, previously requested by the Board. The notice will be added to the April water bills. The Board approved the draft notice for distribution to the District residents.

Water Quality

Superintendent Rooney explained that the District's Counsel Charles Sabatt is investigating the PFAS class action suit that the District is considering joining. Mr. Rooney explained that Mr. Sabatt will discuss his finding at the next Prudential Committee Meeting. Commissioner Whitmore asked who the defendant in the lawsuit are? Mr. Rooney explained that the defendants are several companies that manufactured the PFAS chemicals, and the firefighting foams containing PFAS. Mr. Rooney discussed recent development involving the Barnstable County Fire Training Academy site. He presented the Board with a recent newspaper article discussing the capping of the site with asphalt to prevent rainwater from washing the contamination at the site into the aquifer beneath the site. The Board requested that the Superintendent contact the County Administrator to inquire about the lack of a response to the previous letter of concern sent by the Board to the County.

Chairman Jones asked if repeat samples were taken at Well #5? Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the repeat sample was taken. The raw water PFAS level at Well #5 dropped by 10 parts per trillion. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the repeat sample from finished water blended with water from Wells #2 & Well #5 had a PFAS result 5 parts per trillion lower than the previous sample. He went on to say that the most recent sample demonstrates that the PFAS level of the blended water sample is below the new guideline of 20 ppt.

Commissioner Whitmore asked were the samples analyzed. Mr. Rooney explained that the Department is using Alpha Labs. Chairman Jones asked if the Barnstable County Health Laboratory was doing PFAS testing. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the County Laboratory is working towards becoming a State approved PFAS testing site.

Fire District Land Uses

Superintendent Rooney presented the Board with a request from Cape Cod Pathways to create a new mountain bike/walking trail on Barnstable Fire District owned land. Cape Cod Pathways is also requesting that the District assist with the clearing of existing Cape Cod Pathways trails on District Property. Commissioner Bassett informed the Board that she has been told that there is adolescent activity at night on the trails, and she stated that District should not facilitate more activity. Chairman Jones pointed out that the District is going to be reconstructing the pumping station at Well #1, and the proposed new trail would be very close. Commissioner Whitmore suggested that the request should be declined because the Water Department does not want to change the land use because it could increase the potential for contamination in the wellfield. Chairman Jones asked for a motion. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to decline the request to allow for the creation of a new trail or to encourage use of existing trails, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously**.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

The Board discussed the process for approving Department Bill Schedules for the payment of invoices. Chairman Jones asked if the Superintendent needs the Board members to come to the office individually to sign off on the payment of Department invoices? Superintendent Rooney informed the Board the District Treasurer Richard Buffington stated his willingness to obtain signatures from the Board after the virus crisis abates. Based upon the Treasurers' permission, the Board granted authorization for the Superintendent to temporarily approve the payment of Water Department invoices.

The Board suggested that the Superintendent include the Zoom meeting link on the next Meeting Agenda to allow for public comment. Mr. Rooney stated that he would include the link in the next Agenda.

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 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Rooney