

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

December 14, 2021, 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 2:30 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 October 12, 2021, **seconded** by Commissioner Whitmore. The **motion passed unanimously.**

### **Capital Projects Update**

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that Wright Pierce Engineering, the engineering company subcontracted to design the water treatment plant to remediate PFAS contamination, has advised GZA that the estimated cost for the filtration plant has increased from 13 million dollars to possibly 20 million dollars due to the increased cost of building materials and equipment following the supply chain breakdown during the Covid-19 crisis. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that Wright Pierce suggested reducing the size and capacity of the proposed treatment plant to reduce the cost of the facility. He explained that the original plant design would provide a water production capacity at the treatment plant of 2.2 million gallons per day, to meet the current maximum day demand for the water department. The proposed capacity of the treatment plant would ensure that the District could supply enough filtered water to meet the system demand. The Water Department is required by MassDEP to ensure that there is enough supply capacity to safely meet demand. GZA engineers had provide enough capacity to meet demand if the District's other wells were unable to produce water under the 20 parts per trillion levels required under current State Regulations, or if the maximum containment levels for PFAS were reduced in the future making the unfiltered wells unusable.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that a meeting was held to evaluate the proposed capacity of the water treatment plant. Superintendent Rooney, GZA Engineer Thomas Sexton, Stantec Engineer Erica Lotz, and Wright Pierce Engineer Robert Williamson evaluated the potential to reduce the cost of building the treatment plant during the supply shortages by reducing the size of the treatment plant. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that a consensus was reached to reduce capacity of the treatment plant by 600 thousand gallons per day, from 2.2 million gallons per day to 1.6 million gallons per day. Commissioner Bassett asked what if the PFAS limits were lowered in the future?

Superintendent Rooney explained that carbon filter vessels could be erected outdoors adjacent to wells #3&#4 for use when the temperatures are above freezing. Mr. Rooney explained that Hyannis Water systems is handling their filtration in a similar manner. He informed the Board that the most recent PFAS results at wells #3&#4 were both 11 parts per trillion. Chairman Jones asked if there is any indication the PFAS limits would be lowered? Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the current level of 20 parts per trillion is for a total of six PFAS chemicals, and that there could be more PFAS chemicals added to the current six chemicals being regulated, so the limit would be 20 parts per trillion for a combined 10 or 12 PFAS chemicals.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that based on asked current cost estimates that he had instructed GZA to remove any portions of the building that are not necessary to reduce the footprint of the building. Commissioner Whitmore If the water quality would be affected by the reduction in pumping capacity. Superintendent Rooney explained that for most of the calendar year the Department's pumping is far below 2.2 million gallons per day. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that during the Summer months the PFAS levels will be increased due to using water from wells #3&#4 which are unfiltered. Commissioner Whitmore asked why the original plant design was for 2.2 million gallons? Mr. Rooney replied that the original capacity was designed with an abundance of caution. Commissioner Whitmore asked what has changed. Mr. Rooney replied that the cost of building the facility has potentially doubled. He went on to say that there will also be increased demand for filtration facilities because many water systems in Massachusetts have significant PFAS detections.

Chairman Jones informed the Board that the Department should place an Article on the District Meeting Warrant to bring the cost estimate before the voters of the District. Commissioner Bassett asked what is Stantec's role in the project? Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that Massachusetts State Law requires any municipal building project of \$1,500,000.00 contract an Owners Project Manager to provide consultation and oversight during planning, design, and construction.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Well #1 Rehabilitation project will not be completed on the contracted completion date of April 7, 2022. Mr. Rooney explained that the Contractor Robert B. Our has had difficulties obtaining building materials for the project. Mr. Rooney explained that the prefabricated treatment building to be installed next to the pumping station has been delayed due to two Covid-19 outbreaks at United Concrete in Connecticut. He went on to explain that the emergency Generator for the project was ordered in May 2021, and the estimated delivery date is March 2022.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Well #1 Rehabilitation project is continuing to delay the completion date of the project. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the treatment building's construction has been delay by Covid outbreaks at United Concrete. He explained that the prefabricated treatment building will arrive at the site with all the utilities and equipment installed, making the building ready to be connected to the pumping station. He also informed the board that the delivery of the emergency generator has been delayed.

### **Water Rates**

Superintendent Rooney discussed the compensation the Water Department receives from new development projects. The Board discussed the possibility of creating fees for "Subdivision Fees." The Board decided not to create a new fee for large developments or residential subdivisions.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Water Department will change to a new billing software in December. He informed the Board the Department is working out the integration with the Department's current banking partner.

**Development Projects in the District**

Chairman Jones informed the Board that a meeting was held with representatives of New England Development Company and the District to discuss the proposed apartment complex for Wilkins Way to discuss the demands that will be placed on the Water Department's supply capacity. The Board discussed the possible future water production needed to supply future growth in the District.

**Optional Meter Request**

The Board reviewed an Optional Meter Request applications for 3087 Main Street. Chairman Jones asked for a **motion** to approve the requests. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to approve the requests, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously.**

**Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated By The Chair**

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that he and Department's PFAS consultant Attorney Dennis Murphy met and conducted a site visit at the Barnstable County Fire Training Academy to review the progress of remediation projects at the site.

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 3:32 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas Rooney*