

BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

October 12, 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.
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Chairman Jones asked for a motion to approve previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Whitmore **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes from September 14, 2021, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed Unanimously.**

Capital Projects Update

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that two concrete pads have been constructed at Well #1 for the prefabricated treatment building, and the emergency generator. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the electrical service to the building has not been completed. He reported that the water department needs to have the power installed to the pump motor so that water samples required by MassDEP could be obtained. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that there have been construction delays due to Covid related supply chain slowdowns.

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the area adjacent to Well #2 has been surveyed to determine the site elevations. Mr. Rooney discussed locating the proposed filtration plant at the highest elevation to facilitate gravity feeding backwash, and process water, to leaching lagoons. He also described planned test borings to evaluate the soil characteristics of the site. The type of soils will determine the construction requirements of the building. Mr. Rooney explained that the soil characteristics will be part of the bidding specifications for contractors interested in the project.

Water Rates

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that he had been working to determine the appropriate usage tiers for the increase from semi-annual usage billing to quarterly billing. He explained that he had asked the Department's computer consultant, Roger Tremblay, to evaluate usage amounts for revenue projections. Mr. Rooney explained that the usage tiers had not been discussed by the Board at the previous meeting. He explained that, after a review of several options, the recommendations made by GZA Engineer Tom Sexton for usage tiers will be used beginning in January of 2022.

Superintendent Rooney discussed the establishment of Subdivision Charges for new developments in the District. Mr. Rooney explained that the cost of maintaining water mains may not be covered by service connection fees. The Board asked the Superintendent to develop suggestions for a new water main extension fee for subdivisions.

Development Projects in the District

Superintendent Rooney shared development plans for Wilkins Lane. Mr. Rooney showed conceptual plans for a proposal to build three four story apartment buildings with 274 multifamily apartments. Commissioner Bassett expressed her concern that the water system's water supply would be over stressed. Chairman Jones expressed his concern that the PFAS contaminant levels could increase which would restrict the Department's ability to use all its wells, like it did to Well #5 our largest producing well last year. Commissioner Whitmore asked if the Department could run out of water? Mr. Rooney replied, "Not at this time." The Board discussed the District's financial challenges caused by the need to build a 10-million-dollar filtration plant to reduce PFAS levels in the drinking water.

Superintendent Rooney discussed the Vineyard Wind transformer station proposed for Independence Drive. Mr. Rooney discussed a request to use High Density Polyethylene pipe for the proposed water main. He told the Board that he discussed the pipe material with Stantec Engineer Erica Lotz, and Ms. Lotz recommended that the District should insist on its normal standard of ductile iron pipe. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that he had denied Vineyard Winds request based upon Ms. Lotz's advice.

Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated By The Chair

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 3:50 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Rooney*