

BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 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 February 9, 2021, **seconded** by Chairman Jones. The **motion passed with Commissioner Whitmore abstaining.**

Capital Projects Update

Superintendent Rooney presented the contact documents for Well #1 Rehabilitation by Robert B. Our Company to Board for signatures. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that Robert B. Our is authorized to begin work on or after April 1, 2021. He also reported that the Department had contacted with a local contractor to remove 17 trees, along with their stumps. The site was also regraded after the stump removal. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that the Department had set up a temporary generator to pump Well #1 to waste for a week to confirm that there would be no PFAS detections once pumping begins. Mr. Rooney reported that the PFAS tests were "Non-Detect."

Superintendent Rooney presented the Board with pictures of the emergency roof replacement at Treatment #1/Well #4, and he explained the way the roofing was installed. Mr. Rooney reported that the replacement 3000-gallon Potassium Hydroxide (KOH) storage tank has been installed, including new piping and a new day tank. He also explained that the entire KOH containment area was repainted.

Superintendent Rooney provided the Board with a description of the planning activities for a new treatment facility for Wells #2. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that a water chemistry Pilot Study of the water from Well #2 and Well #5 respectively has been completed. He also discussed the discovery of small wetland pockets on the site that will limit the location of the new filtration building. The wetland areas will also limit the location of lagoons to dispose of process water used for backwashing filters. Mr. Rooney also discussed the possibility of disposing of wastewater to the Town of Barnstable wastewater plant. He informed that Board that the geotechnical work to evaluate the site of the filtration building and leaching lagoons will cost \$800,000. Chairman Jones asked for an explanation of the borrowing for the project. Superintendent Rooney explained that the District has obtained zero percent funding from the State of Massachusetts, and he presented a timeline for project borrowing. He informed the Board that \$1,107,000.00 of borrowing for the reconstruction of Well #1 has been approved, and that the contract with Robert B. Our Corporation was \$1,030,000.00. Mr. Rooney informed that Board that the District is pursuing as USDA PFAS remediation grant. He also explained that the District would be developing a contract with Stantec Engineering to be the District's Owner's Representative to review the plans, and construction activities for the new filtration facilities.

Water Department COVID-19 Policy

Superintendent Rooney provided a Board with a review of the State of Massachusetts guidance regarding Covid-19 related sick time. He informed the Board that employees who are required to stay home from work because they are sick with Covid-19, or are caring for a family member with Covid-19, will be granted two weeks of paid sick leave in addition to any other regularly accrued time off. Mr. Rooney discussed the policy being used for Fire Department employees who are granted paid sick leave if it is believed that the Virus was contracted during the course of their work for the District. He also related that the doctor treating a Water Department employee for Covid-19 stated that she believed that the Water Department employee most likely contracted the virus while engaged in work activities prior to his positive Covid-19 test. Mr. Rooney also discussed the fact that Water Department employees are considered essential services by the State. The Board stated their view that Department employees should be strongly encouraged to be vaccinated. The Board granted approval for the Water Department employee who contracted Covid-19 to be granted administrative leave rather than being required to use accrued sick time.

Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated By The Chair

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Department is exploring the possibility of changing the billing software used by the Department. The Department is seeking a software that will work with the Utility Cloud asset management program currently being used by the Department. He also informed the Board that a new billing software program would provide a Customer Portal to allow customers to review their account. He went on to say that a customer portal would reduce inquires to the office and could encourage water conservation.

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 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Rooney