

BFD BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 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 April 14, 2020, **seconded** by Commissioner Bassett. The **motion passed unanimously.**

Capital Projects / Grant Application

Superintendent Rooney discussed the Pilot Study that will be required to evaluate water characteristics from Well #1 to develop treatment techniques for water produced from the Well. There are up to 17 water characteristics that may need to be evaluated from several sampling locations in the District's water system to evaluate water chemistry. MassDEP will use the information to evaluate need treatment to the water. Mr. Rooney asked Thomas Sexton, from GZA Environmental, to join the Meeting to discuss current projects in the District that he is consulting on. Mr. Sexton informed the Board that he was working with MassDEP to finalize the parameters that will be to be tested. Commissioner Whitmore stated that it sounds like the testing will take many man hours. Mr. Whitmore asked when the testing will begin? Mr. Sexton replied that the testing can be done anytime, but it should be done by the end of this calendar year. He also informed the Board that the Pilot Study will demonstrate that the water from Well #1 will not negatively affect existing water quality in the distribution system.

Chairman Jones asked if there was any progress with obtaining Grants? Mr. Sexton informed the Board that Covid-19 disruptions have the application status up in the air right now. He went on to say that there are more loan programs being developed to address the PFAS detections in public water supplies. Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that he was told by a state representative that the sooner the application is submitted the better. He went on the say that he and Mr. Sexton would work on the applications in July. Mr. Sexton informed the Board that the State Revolving Fund zero interest loan application must demonstrate a shovel ready project. Mr. Sexton informed the Board the application for the currently available grant opportunity, that may cover design costs, will require a proposal from GZA demonstrating the estimated costs of developing design specifications. Mr. Rooney stated that he would like to submit that information to the state in July.

Water Quality

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the rehabilitation of Well #2 has been completed, that the new pump has been installed, and that the well is back in service. He informed the Board that Wells #2 and #5 would be put back into service for use to conduct Spring flushing. Mr. Rooney discussed recent PFAS sample results from Well #5 that have increased. He also discussed the possibility that MassDEP may require a notice to be placed on the Department's website regarding the PFAS detections.

Chairman Jones asked about the frequency of the testing. Mr. Rooney informed the Board that MassDEP now requires that the Department conduct quarterly PFAS testing. Commissioner Basset asked for an explanation of a cost estimate previously distributed to the Board. Mr. Rooney explained that the estimate is a worst-case scenario. He also informed the Board that a previous Article for Water System Improvements is being used to pay for the plans and specifications for Well #1. Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the District has entered a Class Action Lawsuit directed at the manufacturers of Per and Polyfluoroalkyl substances to relieve the financial burden on the District's residents. Tom Sexton informed the Board that the cost of construction and the operational costs of filtering the water will be significant. He went on to say that he would recommend that the District hire a consultant to do a site assessment to determine the source of the PFAS contamination. Superintendent Rooney asked Mr. Sexton if he had an estimate of the cost of a professional site assessment to attempt to determine the source of the contamination? Mr. Sexton estimated that the cost would be \$75,000.00 per wellfield. Mr. Sexton stated that the party responsible for the contamination should be identified, and that the District should seek reimbursement from those parties. Mr. Rooney asked Mr. Sexton if he knew of any nonprofit entities that could assist the District financially. Mr. Sexton said that he was not aware of any.

Water Projects Planned in the District

Superintendent Rooney discussed a Town of Barnstable Project in the area of Independence Drive and Kidd's Hill Road. He discussed hydrants that would be replaced, and water main gate valves that would be added as part of a sewer expansion on Business Way. Mr. Rooney also discussed a new building project on Attucks Lane and Aggregates Way. Chairman Jones asked if the District's water system can supply the new facility? Mr. Rooney replied that it could because the new building will not be a big user. Mr. Rooney discussed the possibility of another apartment building to be built on Independence Drive. He also discussed Hyannis Water Systems plan to extend their water system in the area of Attucks Lane and Independence Drive.

Covid 19 Operational Planning

Superintendent Rooney informed the Board that the Department Staff was back to normal working hours. He went on to say that the staff would be given separate duties that will keep them apart from each other. Mr. Rooney stated his intention to keep the Water Department office closed to the public. The Board agreed with the Department's precautions. Chairman Jones asked if the staff has masks? Mr. Rooney replied that the staff have been provided with face masks to protect against the virus.

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 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas Rooney