

Commissioners
Robert E. Corey
William L. Morin
Chairman - William "Zee" Zielinski

Michael Sheu
Superintendent

John M. Hudzik
Field Service Manager
Primary Distribution Operator

Debra H. Vinal
Treasurer

MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

PRESENT:

Commissioners William "Zee" Zielinski/Chairman, Robert E. Corey/Vice-Chairman, and William L. Morin. Superintendent Michael K. Sheu, Field Services Manager John Hudzik, District Counsel Arthur C. Sullivan Jr. and Roland L. Milliard, and Recording Secretary Jayne Boissonneault.

MINUTES:

The Commissioners agreed to table acceptance of minutes to the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

Community Input:

None

The Board agreed to take the Meter Replacement Project under Superintendent's report out of order as Tara McManus of Weston & Sampson was present to address some issues relative to this project.

Meter Replacement Project:

Tara McManus, Project Manager-Team Leader for Weston & Sampson informed the Board East National Water (ENW), the contractor on this project, has asked for an extension. Ms. McManus reported ENW has approximately 700 meters left to install. The project was considerably under-bid, at approximately \$1.2M to install 3,800 meters. The cost for meters alone is approximately \$1M, leaving only \$250,000 for labor.

Meter Replacement Project (Cont'd):

Ms. McManus reported ENW has asked for a three-month extension, claiming there were some delays in equipment, etc. Ms. McManus stated she does not agree ENW should be given a three-month extension, but asked if the Board of Commissioners, in the interest of getting the job done, is interested in offering an extension for a shorter period of time. Discussion ensued, and all agreed, in the interest in getting the project completed, to offer ENW a four week extension. Ms. McManus agreed four weeks is enough time to install the remaining 700 meters. John Hudzik, Field Services Manager, stated ENW either didn't work or worked very slowly the first two months of this project. Ms. McManus agreed, adding she was disappointed overall, and they will not recommend working with ENW in the future. Ms. McManus also assured the Board ENW is only being paid for the meters they have installed, not the 178 meters (to date) DWSD staff have installed.

Commissioner Corey made a motion to extend East National Water's contract to February 19, 2019. Seconded by Commissioner Morin. Motion passed unanimously. The Commissioners asked that Tara McManus inform ENW they will be responsible for any additional costs for Weston & Sampson relative to this project beyond February 19, 2019.

DISTRICT COUNSEL'S REPORT:

New Office Building Close-Out/Coughlin Heirs:

District Counsel Arthur Sullivan provided the Board with copies of correspondence received from Town Counsel James Hall, stating the Town is in favor of transferring Lots 156 and 157 to the DWSD. District Counsel will prepare the deed so that it can be approved at Town Meeting in June, 2019.

Acts/Bylaws Update:

Tabled

Hearthstone Lane – Total cost to the District:

Attorney Sullivan reported there are two developers: Gardan LLC and Merrimack Homes, only one of which the District could pursue in the matter of reimbursement to the District for booster pumps. Discussion ensued, and all agreed to keep this item on the agenda for now.

Tamarack Road Realignment Project:

Superintendent Michael Sheu reported the developer has paid the SDF and tie-in fees for Lot 78 and Lot 79. The District was informed by the installer the contractor told him he may be putting another, third, connection at the easement; the installer was informed by the District that he cannot.

SDF Fees:

District Counsel asked that SDF Fees be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

DISTRICT COUNSEL’S REPORT (Cont’d):

Water Main Improvement at Tennis Plaza:

Attorney Sullivan reported the plan shows a 30’ water easement, and that Winding Brook Condominiums get their water from that water easement. The Easement states “It is expressly understood by the parties that the party of the first part shall maintain the existing water easement over lot 1 as shown on said plan and expressly retains the right to install, erect, construct, maintain and repair any other utilities on said lot as it so desires.” Attorney Sullivan stated it appears the entire easement should be the responsibility of the Winding Brook Condominiums homeowners association, and that there should be some sort of agreement on record in the 1980’s. District Counsel will do some more research and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Corey made a motion to accept District Counsel’s report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morin. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Tyngsboro and New Boston Well Fields:

Superintendent Michael Sheu reported Replacement Well #2 is completed. Preliminary estimates are that this well can produce 120 to 150 gpm, lower than the 200 gpm originally estimated, however, the water quality is good at this point, and can help to bring Well #5 up to 1,100 gpm.

Project of a new 16” water main from TWF through Norris Road/Lawrence Ave to Lakeview Ave:

Mr. Sheu informed the Board James Hustons, Town of Tyngsboro Highway Administrator, asked about the possibility of allocating the money for paving under the 16” Water Main Improvement Project to the Town of Tyngsboro, so they can just pave the whole road (Norris/Lawrence Rd.). The Commissioners agreed as long as Granese wants to do that. Mr. Sheu will update the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Sheu reported Tighe & Bond’s change order for the Nashua Road Water Main Construction total cost would be \$16,000. Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve \$16,000 for the construction of the Nashua Road Water Main Construction Project. Seconded by Commissioner Corey. Motion passed unanimously.

Meter Replacement Project:

Addressed earlier this evening

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Cont'd):

16" Transmission Main Improvement Project Cost Estimate:

Mr. Sheu provided the Board with copies of Tighe & Bond's cost estimate for the proposed 16" Transmission Main Improvement Project as follows:

Design Phase Engineering	110,000
Construction Phase Engineering	150,000
Construction	3,440,000
Contingency (20%)	740,000

Total: 4,440,000

SRF Eligible Costs: 4,330,000

SRF Ineligible Costs 110,000

Commissioner Morin stated he is okay with this as long as the Treasurer says we have the money for it. Mr. Sheu pointed out that the Treasurer reported the District has \$700,000 in free cash, and the Revenues vs. Expenses Analysis 2016 to 2036 which clearly shows the benefit of increasing the amount of water the District can produce vs. purchasing water from the City of Lowell. Commissioner Morin asked that the Treasurer be at the next meeting to discuss whether or not the District has the money in our budget to move forward with this project.

Commissioner Corey made a motion to accept the Superintendent's report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Morin. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Main Improvement at Tennis Plaza:

Discussed earlier this evening under District Counsel's report.

Unfinished Project SFBPS Discharge Main Upgrades (2016-05) Update:

Mr. Sheu informed the Board the Town's DPW Director has asked him to meet with the Town Manager regarding the paving to complete this project.

AWWA Annual Conference:

Tabled

Access to water meter at 93 Mascuppic Trail:

Field Services Manager John Hudzik reported the property owners are going to make an opening on the floor above the meter so that the meter can be accessed safely.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent and Treasurer Reviews:

Tabled

NEW BUSINESS (Cont'd):

Town of Dracut/Recreation Director – Request for water rate discount on all Town-owned parks:

Lori Cahill, Recreation/Conservation Director for the Town of Dracut sent a request to the Superintendent asking that the District consider reducing three additional Town-owned parks from commercial to wholesale rates: Veteran's Memorial Park Concession, Monahan Field Restrooms, and Monahan Field Snack Shack. Chairman Zielinski asked about Dillon MacAnespie Park rates. The Commissioners agreed to reducing the rates at all three parks as requested, plus Dillon MacAnespie if the Town is paying the commercial rate there.

Water Service Connections at Norris/Lawrence Road, Tyngsboro:

Addressed earlier this evening under Superintendent's report

Other Discussion:

Mr. Sheu provided the Board with information regarding selling water to bottled water companies, as requested by Commissioner Morin. Mr. Sheu pointed out the FDA adopts the EPA regulations. In 2004, the EPA began to put out information regarding Manganese, and MADEP in 2011. Mr. Sheu explained there is a high occurrence of Manganese in the Eastern, New England portion of the US, so it makes sense that the limits for Manganese in MA is so much higher (0.3) than CA (0.05), for instance.

Water Production 2015 – 2018:

Mr. Sheu provided the Board with detailed information on water production, stating the District has spent a lot of money to drill new wells. The wells are good during monitoring, and then manganese levels begin to creep up. Decisions need to be made regarding treatment vs. finding new wells. Commissioner Corey stated there has to be a place in the TWF for a good well, perhaps further away from the river, and asked if there is technology out there for finding different veins of water where manganese is lower. Mr. Sheu stated there is technology for detecting different veins of water but not for detecting water quality. Chairman Zielinski urged everyone to study the data provided by the Superintendent and to be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting – the data is "right here", showing that there must be rate increases in order to continue moving the District forward. If we increase the rates by 5% per year the District would have the funds to complete Phase 3, 4, & 5 of the transmission line project, find new wells and/or consider treatment, and we have the data to show the ratepayers. This is the same information the District paid the auditors to analyze.

Chairman Zielinski instructed the Secretary to add discussion and possible vote for a 5% rate increase on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule:

Chairman Zielinski announced the next meetings are scheduled as follows:

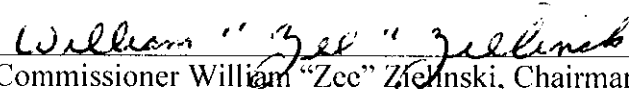
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 5:30 PM DWSD/Main Office Conference Rm.
Bylaw Subcommittee Meeting
(snow date – February 20, 2019)

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 6:30 PM DWSD/Main Office Conference Rm.
Regularly Scheduled Meeting
(snow date – February 20, 2019)

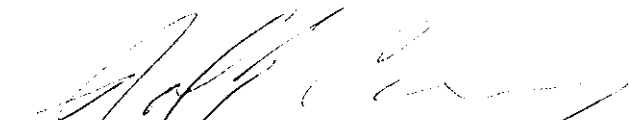
Wednesday, February 27, 2019 6:00 PM DWSD/Main Office Conference Rm.
Bylaw Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, February 27, 2019 7:00 PM DWSD/Main Office Conference Rm.
Regularly Scheduled Meeting

Commissioner Corey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Morin. Motion passed unanimously.



Commissioner William "Zec" Zielinski, Chairman



Commissioner Robert E. Corey, Vice-Chairman



Commissioner William L. Morin