

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
JUNE 24, 2024

Chairperson Sheldon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., announced that the virtual version of the meeting was being recorded, and asked those in attendance to state their name and title for the record by roll call:

Board Members Present in Person: Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner and Chairperson – Present; Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Present; and Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Present.

Board Members Present Virtually: None.

Others Present in Person: Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director - Present; Renee M. Adams, Customer Service Manager - Present; and Karen A. Moretti, Assistant Treasurer - Present.

Others Present Virtually: None.

1. REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2024:

This was deferred to the next meeting, because the item had been inadvertently left off the agenda in the posting for the meeting.

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S JUNE 20th BI-WEEKLY REPORT:

Director Roy presented his bi-weekly report to the Commissioners and addressed questions regarding the following topics:

- **WELL 5 INVESTIGATION/STUDY:**
Chairperson Sheldon asked Director Roy if he had received a water quality report from the project's consultant, BETA Group, Inc., Mr. Roy responded that he had not yet received the analytics. However, that he was confident that the water quality report would be available sometime the following week.
- **RAYMOND ROAD WATER TREATMENT PLANT (RRWTP) PFAS PROJECT:**
Commissioner Fox asked Director Roy if he had received a status update from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Agency (MassDEP) regarding the final approval letter authorizing the use of PFAS treatment at the RRWTP. Mr. Roy responded that all conditions required by MassDEP had been met and that it was his understanding that an approval letter had been drafted, and that MassDEP's senior staff at the Northeast Regional office were reviewing it for final approval.
- **WATER MAIN BREAK AT 4 PINE STREET**
Commissioner Fox remarked that the Pine Street water main break photographs included in the Director's report demonstrate the severity of the break and that the break undermined a utility pole. The water main was only about three feet from the pole. Mr. Roy also stated that it was necessary for Eversource to cut power to the area, so that District field personnel could safely work adjacent to an electricity source. Mr. Roy further stated that approximately forty households were without water and electricity for about eight hours, and that the Eversource crew remained on site until the water main repairs were completed so they could reset the pole and restore power to the area.

3. WATER ABATEMENT APPEAL REQUEST - 17 TRAILSIDE CIRCLE

Mr. Roy informed the Commissioners that he and Mrs. Adams had concluded a survey with surrounding water districts and water utilities about their practices and policies for disputed water bills and leak abatements. Mrs. Adams stated that none of the utilities polled has a formal policy for leak abatements. Mrs. Adams emphasized that each utility stated that the customer is responsible for every drop of water that flows through the meter regardless of leaks and all water charged is subject to the usage rate without discount. Mrs. Adams also stated that all of the utilities offer their customers an option to have their water meter bench-

tested, with similar policies as the District. If the water meter bench test results determine that the meter accuracy is within industry standards, the customer is billed for the test fee. If the meter accuracy is outside the of industry standards, the utility assumes responsibility for the test fee and may adjust the water bill accordingly.

Mr. Roy informed the Commissioners that he had met with the District's meter distributor (Ti-Sales, Inc.) to inquire about the homeowner's theory that vibrations triggered by the nearby Eversource transmission line construction project caused the meter-register's (numerical dial) to spin excessively, resulting in erroneous water use. Ti-Sales responded that vibration could not have caused problems with the mechanics of that meter (Neptune T10).

The Neptune T10 meter incorporates a nutating disc to measure the flow of water through the meter chamber, and each disc nutation represents a fixed quantity of water. So the total flow is calculated by the total number of rotations. Without water flow, it is impossible for the disc to rotate or measure anything, so vibration could not cause the problem.

Commissioner Sheldon stated that the District's leak abatement policy clearly stipulates that an abatement will only be approved if a leak is identified and repaired by either a licensed plumber or a licensed sprinkler installer. The District expects to have an applicant for an abatement to make an investment in making a repair or at least providing expert documentation supporting the owner's claim that the system is functioning properly. However, Mr. Crane had emphasized that there was no leak. Director Roy stated that he suspects the increase in water use was caused by a leak, which could have been repaired prior to the installation of a Mach 10) R900i meter with data logging capabilities.

Commissioner Boyd asked Director Roy if he knew how many gallons per minute (gpm) could flow through a one-inch meter. Mr. Roy responded that a one-inch Neptune T10 meter has a maximum operating range of 50 gpm or 57,000 gallons per day, so that in a 90-day billing cycle the meter is capable of measuring up to 5,130,000 total gallons.

The Commissioners took no position on the abatement request at the meeting and decided to continue the discussion at the next meeting. In the meantime, they asked Mr. Roy to request that Ti-Sales draft a formal letter detailing the meter bench test accuracy results for 17 Trailside Circle, to which Mr. Roy concurred.

4. INVITATION TO BID (IFB) 25-4 MISCELLANEOUS WATERWORKS SUPPLIES:

Commissioner Sheldon asked for Mr. Roy to provide a brief update to Invitation for Bid (IFB) 25-4, the request for bids for waterworks supplies. Mr. Roy informed the Commissioners that in accordance with Massachusetts procurement laws, the District advertised an IFB for our most frequently purchased waterworks supplies on June 18th, and the bid opening was scheduled for July 11th.

5. LEAK ABATEMENT APPEAL – 27 LILLIAN AVENUE

The Commissioners deferred discussion for a water abatement appeal request for 27 Lillian Avenue due to a scheduling conflict with the homeowner. The leak abatement appeal was rescheduled to the July 23rd Board of Water Commissioners meeting.

6. VOTE TO AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF CONTRACT 25-1 FOR EMERGENCY ON-CALL CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Director Roy presented the bid results for IFB 25-1, Emergency On-Call Construction Services, to the Commissioners. Mr. Roy informed the Board that the low bidder was Celco Construction, Inc. Mr. Roy emphasized that that the District has worked with the contractor on various past water main and water utility projects and has been very pleased with their work.

Commissioner Fox moved to authorize Executive Director Vincent J. Roy to execute the contract agreement between Celco Construction., Inc. having a usual place of business at 38 Mt. Ash Lane, Pembroke, MA 02359, and the District for providing Emergency/On-Call Construction Services for the District for Fiscal

Year 2025, along with two additional option years (Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027), contingent upon agreement by both parties. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved by unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye
Robert H, Sheldon, Chairman and Commissioner - Aye
Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Aye

Conclusion of Open Meeting

Commissioner Fox moved to conclude the public open meeting and to move into executive session under Exemption 1. of the Open Meeting Law, to review and vote to approve Minutes from the March 24th, April 2nd, April 16th, and April 30th Executive Sessions and not return to a public open meeting at the conclusion of the executive session. The motion was duly seconded by Chairperson Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert H., Sheldon - Chairperson and Commissioner - Aye
Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye
Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Aye

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.