

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
JANUARY 21, 2025

A quorum being present, Chairperson Sheldon called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He announced that the virtual version of the meeting was being recorded and requested 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; Thomas S. Travers, Treasurer - Present; Michael Abbondanzio, Foreman - Present; Karen A. Moretti, Assistant Treasurer - Present; and Renee M. Adams, Executive Administrator - Present

Others Present Virtually: none

1. Review and Vote to Approve the Minutes from the Board of Water Commissioners Meeting held on January 7, 2025.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes for the January 7, 2025, meeting, as amended. Commissioner Fox made the motion for approval, which was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon, and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

2. Review of the Director’s January 17, 2025, Bi-Weekly Report.

Director Roy presented his bi-weekly report, covering the following topics:

- *136 Boston Post Road/Bear Mountain*
Treasurer Travers asked Assistant Treasurer Karen Moretti if the District had received payment from Bear Mountain. Mrs. Moretti responded that no payment has been received as of this date, but that she had been in communication with their office. The current billed amount is \$29,306.62, while the outstanding balance on the account is \$27,258.46, for a total of \$56,565.08.
- *PFAS/MDL:*
Commissioner Sheldon asked Director Roy what information is needed to be submitted to SL Environmental for the AFFF multi-district litigation (MDL) settlements from Tyco and BASF. Mr. Roy stated that the District needs to submit all expenses incurred since the previous submittal deadline of August 24, 2024, for the 3M and DuPont class action PFAS settlements. On January 17, 2025, the Court granted an extension of the claims form submission deadline to April 8, 2025, for both the Tyco and BASF Public Water System settlements.
- *Raymond Road Water Treatment Plant/PFAS Filtration System/ Leak on B1 Vessel*
Commissioner Boyd inquired about the cause of the leak on the Vessel B1 piping. Mr. Roy stated that he believed it was due to poor casting of the metal. The stainless-steel piping was manufactured in Malaysia, which he believes does not have the same QA/QC standards as in the USA. Mr. Roy displayed the 90-degree elbow that was replaced from the facility, illustrating pinholes near the welded seam of the fitting. Commissioner Sheldon suggested that Mr. Roy further investigate the pipe failure with a metallurgist who can provide an analysis of the pipe and the failure. Mr. Roy also stated that

New Terra (the vessel and pipe network provider) has committed to providing the District with replacement fittings for inventory.

- MassDEP Notice of Noncompliance:

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that the District received a Notice of Noncompliance from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for failing to submit a Water Loss Control Program in accordance with its Water Management Act (WMA) permit. Mr. Roy explained that the District is required to submit a water loss control plan after not meeting the WMA permit's 10% unaccounted-for-water (UAW) performance standard for two out of the last three years. The District has not met the UAW standard since 2015.

Mr. Roy also mentioned that he has requested cost proposals from two separate consultants to assist the District in developing a water loss control program. The District has 120 days from the issuance date of the Notice of Noncompliance to submit the plan. Commissioner Sheldon suggested that the District may be underestimating the water loss from main breaks, to which Mr. Roy stated that it was a possibility. Mr. Roy also stated that the District will be submitting a grant application proposal later this week to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for a Drought Resiliency grant. The grant proposal is seeking \$50,000 for purchasing additional hydrant leak detection sensors, which will be part of the District's Water Loss Control program.

There were no further questions regarding the Director's Bi-Weekly Report.

3. Review Draft Employee Policy (Handbook).

Director Roy presented the draft employee manual to the Commissioners for review and comments. The Commissioners reviewed and made minor edits concluding the discussion of paid time-off. Commissioner Sheldon requested that Executive Administrator Renee Adams combine all edits into a new draft with markup in preparation for the next Commissioners meeting.

Conclusion of Open Meeting

Commissioner Fox moved to conclude the open public meeting session and move into executive session, not to return to the open public meeting session, to review and vote to approve Executive Session Minutes for December 17, 2024, and January 7, 2025, in the Executive Session and the chair so declares." Chairperson Sheldon subsequently so declared. The motion was duly seconded by Chairperson Sheldon and approved by a unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioners - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.