

# ***Dighton Water District***

**192 Williams St.  
North Dighton, MA 02764**

**Sue Medeiros  
Patrick Menges  
Gregory Olsen**

***COMMISSIONERS***

*Carol A. Stevens*  
***TREASURER***

Special Meeting  
Board of Commissioners  
Bristol County Agricultural High School  
Wednesday 17 July 2013, 3:30 P.M.

The board of commissioners of the Dighton Water District met at Bristol County Agricultural High School on Wednesday 17 July 2013, at 3:30 P.M., to discuss with the school's business manager Robert McGlynn ownership of the school's water supply master ("pit") meter and Center Street water main.

Chairman Susana Medeiros being absent, clerk of the commissioners Patrick Menges convened the meeting in Gilbert Hall at 3:30 P.M. and declared a recess until a quorum had arrived. When Commissioner Gregory Olsen arrived at 3:45 P.M., the meeting resumed with Mr. McGlynn and Ms. Wendy Oliveira at Allen P. Keith Hall, in the Trustees' conference room.

Commissioner Olsen stated that if the District owned the pit meter and main supplying the Agricultural School, their maintenance and replacement would be the District's responsibility. But he asked Commissioner Menges the District's position. Mr. Menges said that the District held that they were owned by and the responsibility of the school. He also interposed that, like the North Dighton Fire District to which Commissioner Olsen referred in his comments by way of a comparison, Dighton Water District has a regulation so fixing the responsibility.

Concerning the pit meter, Mr. Olsen referred to it as a fire line meter because it services three hydrants on the school grounds and therefore must be rated for unrestricted flow. Mr. McGlynn impugned the meter's accuracy; Mr. Olsen estimated its replacement cost to be perhaps \$2,000.00.

Ms. Oliveira stated that the late Superintendent Krista Paynton (and previous directors) had sought to fix responsibility for the meter and main on the District and asserted that a deeded

transfer had accomplished this, but acknowledged that she had not gone through all the paperwork. She produced a copy of a 1971 deed signed by the trustees purporting to transfer the meter and main to the District, but Commissioner Menges, who stated that he had been shown this document at a meeting with former Commissioner Paul Joly, Superintendent Cestodio, and Mrs. Paynton in the late Superintendent's office two years ago, noted that it had not been notarized, nor recorded in the registry of deeds, and he stated that the District had no record of having paid a dollar or having received this deed. He noted that the firm of O'Donnell and O'Donaghue, Attorneys, Rock Street, Fall River, who had drawn the deed, had ceased to exist, and that no information had been found concerning it.

The Meeting was inconclusive as to the Agricultural School's assertion of District liability for the school's master meter and main. There will be another meeting when Ms. Oliveira has read all of the late Mrs. Paynton's accumulated file and has contacted Bristol County Agricultural High School's attorney.

However, the Commission agreed to a request by Mr. McGlynn, that the District send a letter stating the "standard deduction" applied to the school's water bill for four Center Street houses whose domestic water passes through the school's pit meter but is billed to the homeowners. Commissioner Menges noted that a home service's water draw alone was not sufficient to trip or register on the large pit meter, but that an allowance for the four home services is made when the school is billed for water.

On a motion of Commissioner Olsen, seconded by Commissioner Menges and passed on a unanimous voice vote, the Commission voted to request that Michael MacDonald of Bank Five remove the name of former Commissioner Kenneth Araujo from all district accounts.

On a motion of Commissioner Menges, seconded by Commissioner Olsen and passed on a unanimous voice vote, the Commission voted to request that Michael MacDonald of Bank Five add to Carol A. Stevens the name of Commissioner Gregory Olsen (to replace Mr. Araujo's name) on all District accounts, and to authorize Tina Braga to transfer funds between District accounts with permission from the Board.

The Board adjourned without day by consensual dissolution at 4:50 P.M.

Patrick W. Menges  
Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

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