

Dighton Water District

192 Williams Street
North Dighton, MA 02764

Edward Swartz
Jeffery Cloonan
Sue Medeiros
COMMISSIONERS

Tina Bragga
TREASURER

THE FOLLOWING MEETING WAS BOTH AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDED

Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.
Water District Headquarters

Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Ed Swartz called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MEETING WITH SCHEDULED GUESTS:

Eric Thibert – Water Bill and Rates – Mr. Thibert was present to discuss his water bill and the Out of District status of his property. Chairman Swartz explained that Mr. Thibert property was not properly petitioned into the District and was removed in 2011. This property's water usage is charged at an "Out of District" rate which is much higher than "In District" rates to compensate for the absence of a water tax on the property. The process to petition the Board to be accepted into the District was explained.

Patrick O'Neale – Tata & Howard – Treatment Plant Evaluation Presentation – Mr. O'Neale presented the Board with copies of Tata & Howard's evaluation. Mr. O'Neale reported that the clarifiers were not operating efficiently. Recommendations are process changes that can be accomplished by the operators to help enhance the treatment process. To relocate the permanganate and hydroxide chemical feeds up stream as far as possible in the Plant. The second step was to look at the coagulant doses. This is something that can also be done in house by operators by tweaking the doses. It was noted that the treatment operators are in the process of replacing a broken airline in the clarifier. Also in the evaluation was to jar test different polymers, this too can be done in house. Mr. O'Neale discussed adding additional piping loop in the plant, adding individual polymer feed pumps and chemical doses for each well. It was mentioned that the plants SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system is running out of space and the District will need to add the tank mixers to this. Chairman Swartz stated we will add additional computer space as an article to the Fiscal 16 budget. The last recommendation was to put a connection between the clear wells. The Board discussed their concern that the Treatment Plant will not be able to supply water to the projected growth of the town. Chairman Swartz suggested speaking with DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) in regards to handling new development in town that the District doesn't feel they can supply.

Commissioner Cloonan would like the District to look for additional well sources that don't necessarily need to come through the Treatment Plant. Chairman Swartz would like to look further into the regional water tie in agreement with Taunton. There was also a brief discussion on Aquaria Water.

Superintendent Olsen presented the Board with additional contracts to be signed for the purchase and installation of the tank mixer at the Elm Street tank. Barbato Construction Co., Inc. the contractor awarded the bid has agreed to hold the bid price for the purchase and installation of the tank mixer for the Williams Street tank.

Mr. O'Neale discussed the Water and Infrastructure grant. Superintendent Olsen would like to have a hydrolic model for the water system into GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping, this is something the grant would pay for. Grant applications are due in April, award date is May 19th. Tata & Howard are willing to do the application for this grant.

Chairman Swartz mentioned that the District was part of the Environmental bill that passed last year. It had \$500,000.00 for Well Field Protection. The Board has not heard anything in regards to this yet.

APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETINGS:

Chairman Ed Swartz entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday February 10, 2015 monthly meeting at 6:00 P.M. Commissioner Sue Medeiros, so moved, Commissioner Jeff Cloonan seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously. Second was the executive session minutes of February 10, 2015, executive minutes not to be released. Commissioner Sue Medeiros, so moved, Commissioner Jeff Cloonan seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Swartz first read a letter from AT&T regarding antenna's on the Elm Street tank. The Board requested that Charles Cestodio notify AT&T that the letter is not what we intended and would like to meet with someone at a future board meeting.

Second letter was from Holland Chemical Company in regards to extending the Fiscal 15 contracted bid price. The Board will go out to bid as usual.

FINANCIAL CONDITION:

Commissioner Medeiros read the financial conditions. Chairman Swartz asked for a motion to accept the financial conditions as presented by the Clerk/Treasurer, Commissioner Medeiros so moved, Commissioner Cloonan seconded, motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Superintendent Olsen reported that letters have been sent to large meter owners informing them they have eleven months to test or replace their large meters. Has also been in touch with the School Department and Town Hall in regards to their large meters.

Has sent plans for Wellington Acres which is off of Tommy's Way to the District's engineer for review. This subdivision will be serviced by Cedar Street and Smith Street.

There was a water break on Smith Street this past weekend.

Clarifier number one is out of service, airline is in the process of being replaced.

Has scheduled with the Fire Department for March 24th safety training at the Treatment Plant at night, training will be on chemical safety and confined space.

There was a brief discussion on the sprinkler tap for 1209 Somerset Avenue. Superintendent Olsen would like to get a sprinkler engineer's stamp on the size of the tap they will require to supply sprinkler system to this building properly. Chairman Swartz suggested calling the contractor, Joe Norton from Premier as for what you need.

Electrical work to the panels at 527 Somerset Avenue has been completed. Superintendent Olsen would like to take the remaining \$800.00 balance from this article to upgrade the lighting. He has been waiting for two years for an electrical survey from National Grid for this building with no results. They no longer make the lights that are in this building. Chairman Swartz asked that Mass Save be contacted again and to update him on the response.

Superintendent Olsen reported that he would like to replace the 1999 District truck that has close to 200,000 miles on it. He has asked Sargent Dutra to look for a government vehicle. Chairman Swartz requested putting a number together and will discuss when we review the budget, may need to wait until after we receive free cash.

Lastly on President's day a resident on Somerset Avenue had called that his service had frozen. After trying to unthaw the line it was determined that there was no water coming from the main. Superintendent Olsen explained that the line comes from the City of Taunton over the Three Mile River into Dighton. Princess House and 2 existing properties are tied into the main before it goes down to the District garage. This is an emergency connection only, it froze solid at the bridge. We need to get these people water, temporally we are back feeding them from the Dighton main. Chairman Swartz asked if we could feed these properties from the line behind our building at 527 Somerset Avenue. Superintendent Olsen stated you would need an easement from Princess House to come out to the highway or you could run a line down from TASCOS Stove. After speaking to Cathal, Division Supervisor of Taunton Water, he stated that the fire line to Princess House is a freebee from the City of Taunton it is only there in case there is a fire. Taunton also knows that this line supply's 2 Dighton properties, it is stated on the prints to read meter and add to Taunton Water yearly. We need to know who's going to fix the pipe, who is responsible and how are we going to get these people water. Chairman Swartz stated that we will speak further.

OLD BUSINESS:

Intermunicipal Agreement – Will speak further.

GIS Mapping – May be taken care of in the possible grant.

District Accountant/Assistant Clerk/Treasurer Position – We have had interviews, have 2 good candidates. Board would like to bring the 2 candidates back for a second interview on March 30th.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meter Fee for One Inch Meters – Commissioner Cloonan stated we need to set a meter fee for one inch meters. Would like to set fee at \$15.00 twice per year. Would also like to change the wording meter fee to service fee. Chairman Swartz stated that we need to do a public hearing we will note any changes we made and adoption of fees. Commissioner Cloonan continued that Superintendent Olsen and he did an audit on the meters at the 3 schools, one building needs a 1" meter and the other 2 need bigger meters. Would like to take over these meters and change them. Chairman Swartz recommended meeting with the facilities manager, discuss exactly what you would like. It would have to be a written agreement that needs to be approved by the Superintendent or the School Committee and then we approve it. We will place it on file, have District Council review it.

Remote Plant Operations – No update.

Fiscal 2016 Proposed Operating Budget and Special Articles – The Board was presented with a draft Warrant and Special Articles for their review.

Intermunicipal Agreement – There was a brief discuss on the need of additional water with the upcoming growth of the town.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be April 14, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. Annual District Election will be May 18, 2015. Nominations for Commissioner for three years will be open from March 2, 2015 to April 2, 2015. Annual District Meeting will be May 28, 2015. Deadline for submission of Special Articles for the Annual Meeting Warrant will be March 27, 2015.

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel matters and not be coming back into regular session. Chairman Swartz asked for a motion to go into executive session under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21 (3) and Chapter 30A Section 21 (1) Commissioner Medeiros so moved, Commissioner Cloonan seconded. Roll call was taken.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Bragga
District Clerk

Those in Attendance:

Edward Swartz
Jeffrey Cloonan
Eric Thibert
Dorian Jefferson

Sue Medeiros
Tina Bragga
Attorney David Gay

Greg Olsen
Jim Ready
Patrick O'Neale

Chairman Ed Swartz

Clerk Jeff Cloonan

Commissioner Sue Medeiros