

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF January 25, 2022

(Virtual Meeting)

Chairman Sheldon called the virtual meeting to order at 5:07 p.m., announced that the virtual meeting was being recorded, and asked for each of the Board members to state their name for the record by roll call:

Board Members Present: Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Present; Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Present; and Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner and Chairman - Present.

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Thomas S. Travers, Treasurer; Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director; Renee M. Adams, Customer Service Manager; Pat Brown, Sudbury Citizen and District member residing at 34 Whispering Pine Road, Dan Carty, District liaison for the Sudbury Select Board; Janie Dretler, Sudbury Select Board member but abstaining from comment; Jennifer Roberts, Sudbury Select Board chair; Henry Hayes, Sudbury Town Manager; and Eric Poch, member of the Sudbury Finance Committee.

1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 11th COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of January 11, 2022, as amended. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Fox and duly seconded by Commissioner Boyd, and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S JANUARY 21st BI-WEEKLY REPORT:

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

PFAS Update:

Mr. Roy informed the Commissioner that R.H. White had mobilized on Monday, January 24, to begin installing the new pipework inside the Raymond Road WTP. He also stated that R.H. White would be assisting the District with the outside work to install the pipework for a temporary PFAS removal system as specified in the approved design plan. Mr. Roy stated that the next Town approval required would be from the Zoning Board of Appeals, and this project is on the agenda for February 7.

S&P Global Bond Rating:

Treasurer Travers informed the Board that the phone conference on February 24 with S&P Global (S&P) to discuss the District's bond rating status went extremely well. Mr. Travers stated that the S&P representative recommended that the District's negative outlook be removed at S&P's next board meeting. He also stated that S&P was not likely to reinstate the District's AAA bond rating at this time.

Water Usage:

Commissioner Sheldon asked Mr. Roy if there was a reason for the increase in water usage over the previous two-week period. Mr. Roy responded that he was aware of the slight increase and had already instructed the District's foreman and operations manager to begin a general leak survey. He also stated that no leaks had been

detected thus far and that the increase was because more people were working from home because of the uptick in COVID-19 cases.

3. DISCUSSION ON FAIRBANK COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT/WATER MAIN RELOCATION:

Director Roy welcomed the attendees from the Town to the Board of Water Commissioners meeting and showed a G.I.S. map of 40 Fairbank Road (the Fairbank Senior and Community Center) to help with the discussion. The fundamental problem is the conflict between the location of the District's 10-inch asbestos-cement (AC) water main and the proposed building site for the new community center. Because there are no services fed by that segment of the system, removing it will not require any temporary water main construction. The water system is fed not only using the segment under discussion but is also fed from Fairbank Road, Hudson Road from the west to Fairbank Road, and through the "Babe Ruth" neighborhood from Dutton Road. Because there might be some decreases in flows and pressures in the system with that segment off line, it is advisable to run the hydraulic model as a check. Mr. Roy said that he would ask the District's consultant, Environmental Partners (EP), to make that check, which he expected could be completed in about a day.

The permanent replacement would be an extension of the main about 400-feet along the shoulder of Hudson Road from Babe Ruth Drive to Fairbank Road. Mr. Roy said his preliminary cost estimate for materials and installation based on recent bids was approximately \$200,000.00. Mr. Roy stated that EP has determined that the cost to design the new main would be \$24,800. The Owner's Project Manager for the Fairbank Community Center project, Chris Eberly, said that he had received funding authorization to cover the cost of the design plan from the Public Building Committee at their January 13th meeting. Therefore, to expedite the water main design and because the District does not have funds to use at this time to undertake the design, Mr. Roy and Mr. Eberly agreed to have the Town reimburse the District for EP's design and to begin the design immediately. Mr. Roy also stated that he planned to meet on Friday, January 28th, with Mr. Eberly and EP to discuss details of the water main layout.

Mr. Roy had contacted several vendors of pipe materials, and they have said their current lead time could be up to six months. However, it was possible for the District to cut and cap the water main before construction, allowing the Town to begin their project on time and remove the 10" pipe without having to first install the new main, pending confirmation from the hydraulic model that there would be no adverse impacts on flows and pressures.

There were other details discussed about the water main project. First of all, the 10" asbestos-cement water main is in good condition and not scheduled for replacement in the near future, despite being about 70 years old. Second, all agreed that it would be advisable to add a hydrant in the area during the new water main construction, with the specific location to be determined later. One of the more important points was the cost to remove the asbestos-cement pipe, which requires specific handling and disposal and approvals from MassDEP. Mr. Roy stated that he needed to further investigate costs for removal with EP, and that there were strict regulatory requirements for the disposal and that he would contact Ms. Roberts at a future date with that information.

There was some preliminary discussion about cost-sharing between the District and the Town. The most recent example of such cost-sharing was the Dutton Road Bridge project, but the difference between the two projects is that the Dutton Road Bridge project included a major improvement to access and operation of the District's water main, whereas the Fairbank Community Center water main is much less critical to the District and was not projected for replacement for many years. There was a significant contribution from the District toward the Town's Dutton Road Bridge project, because it represented a significant improvement for the District. However, the Commissioners agreed that the District was willing to help the Town to avoid any delay on moving forward with their project.

At the end of discussion Mr. Roy and Chairman Sheldon agreed to meet the following day remotely with the Town Manager and a member of the Select Board to continue the discussion on project financing.

Conclusion of Open Meeting:

Commissioner Fox moved to conclude the open meeting and to move into executive session under Exception 2 of the Open Meeting Law, to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel, or anything relative thereto, and Exemption 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares and to not return to the Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was duly seconded. Chairman Sheldon declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the Commissioners. The motion was subsequently approved unanimously by roll call:

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner and Chairman - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

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