

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF**  
**NOVEMBER 29, 2022**

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Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m., announced that the virtual version of the meeting was being recorded, and asked for each Commissioner to state their name for the record by roll call:

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

**Others Present:** Tom Travers, Treasurer; Karen Moretti, Assistant Treasurer; and Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director.

Note that all meeting attendees were in person. Nobody attended virtually.

**1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> COMMISSIONERS MEETING:**

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of November 15, 2022, as amended. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Boyd, duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon, and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

**2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> BI-WEEKLY REPORT:**

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

*MetroWest Expansion Study:*

Commissioner Sheldon provided a summary of the meeting hosted by the District on 11/29 with members of the MWRA and Town of Sudbury officials to discuss the MWRA's feasibility study and potential impact to Sudbury. Commissioner Sheldon provided a brief explanation on the work done by the MWRA to reduce the average daily demand for water to about 200 mgd and how it allows for their possibility to expand their system to sell more water (approximately 50 mgd). Commissioner Sheldon also explained the MWRA's possible location for a 48-inch water main route from Shaft "L" in Framingham to the Bruce Freeman trail heading north. MWRA anticipates having their feasibility study completed by April 2023 and construction to be completed within the next 15-20 years. Other items discussed were other possible routes, redundancy pipes, pump stations, tanks, easements, ownership, responsibilities, and community outreach. There would be only one pipeline to feed the system from Shaft L in Framingham and no viable sources available from north of Sudbury. This means that taking the pipeline out of service for any reason will render communities vulnerable if they don't already have their own supply to fall back on. The general consensus among commissioners and others at the meeting that a District connection would be advantageous to address emergencies such as severe contamination of an aquifer or major droughts. It should not be considered a full replacement of the existing groundwater supply. Commissioner Sheldon noted that the District would have to have some additional infrastructure constructed at the point(s) of connection to the proposed MWRA pipeline. At a minimum, it would be a meter station with valves. It might also need to include a

booster pump station and disinfection. Commissioner Sheldon cited the MWRA's recent policy to waive the one-time connection fee of \$4.3 per million gallons per day through December 31, 2027, which represents a cost savings for an emergency connection if one is available.

There were no further questions or comments from the Report.

### **3. PRESENTATION OF FY 2022 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT**

Director Roy provided the Commissioners with the 2022 Financial Audit Report and Management Letter from Roselli, Clark, and Associates (RCA) Certified Public Accountants. Tony Roselli of RCA presented the audit report via Zoom. Mr. Roselli began with the management letter highlighting the District's strong position with its long-term debt obligation (OPEB) being 86% funded and putting the District in the top 5% compared to other municipalities. Mr. Roselli recommended that the District increase its contribution to its recently established Pension Stabilization Fund. Mr. Roselli also recommended that the District invest a portion of its retained earnings and to invest excess cash in higher yielding investment funds. Mr. Roselli discussed the new requirements under the GASB rules in regard to reporting cell tower leases and rental income. Other items discussed were the balance sheet, assets, liabilities, operating revenues, and debt service. The overall report is that the District has done an outstanding job with this year's financial audit and remains in a strong financial position moving forward.

### **4. VOTE TO AWARD PFAS MITIGATION PROJECT TO BARBATO CONSTRUCTION**

Director Roy presented the Commissioners with a letter from MassDEP to authorize the District to award the Raymond Road Water Treatment Plant (RRWTP) PFAS mitigation project to Barbato Construction. Commissioner Sheldon moved to award the RRWTP PFAS Project contract to Barbato Construction Company of 155 East Grove Street, Middleton, MA, for the amount of \$2,695,165.00 from the bid submittal at the September 29<sup>th</sup> Invitation for Bids (IFB) 23-21 bid opening and to authorize Executive Director Vincent Roy to execute the contract with Barbato Construction. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Boyd, and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

### **5. VOTE TO APPROVE CROWN CASTLE CELL TOWER GROUND LEASE EXPANSION AT WILLIS HILL:**

Director Roy presented the Commissioners with a revised proposal from Crown Castle to allow Dish Networks to co-locate on Crown Castle's cell tower located on the site of the Willis Hill Tank. The amount presented was \$700/month, an increase of \$200/month from the previous offer. After some discussion the Commissioners agreed to the terms and requested that Mr. Roy inform Crown Castle to draft a succinct amendment of the terms for the Commissioner to approve at a future meeting, to which Mr. Roy agreed.

#### ***Conclusion of Open Meeting:***

The motion to conclude the meeting was made, duly seconded, and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

The Open Meeting concluded at 6:55 p.m.