

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
MARCH 7, 2023

Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 5:03 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; Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner – Present; and Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairman - Present.

Others Present: Thomas S. Travers, Treasurer; Karen Moretti, Assistant Treasurer, Renee Adams, Customer Service Manager, Michael Abbondanzio, Foreman, and Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director.

Virtually Present: There were no individuals attending virtually.

1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023, COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of February 21, 2023, as amended. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sheldon and 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, Chairman and Commissioner – Aye

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S MARCH 3rd BI-WEEKLY REPORT:

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

MWRA Metro-west Expansion Study:

Commissioner Sheldon requested that Director Roy obtain a copy of the meeting minutes from the MWRA for past and future meetings regarding the Metro-west Expansion study and to retain them on file. Commissioner Sheldon also requested that Mr. Roy provide a link to the meeting minutes in his future bi-weekly reports, to which Mr. Roy concurred.

Hudson-Sudbury Eversource Line Project:

Commissioner Sheldon asked Mr. Roy what the District was requiring Eversource to do about the crossings of water main, especially with regard to prevention of corrosion from stray currents on metallic pipe. Director Roy responded that there are four crossings in total, two of which (Dutton Rd. and Peakham Rd.) would require replacement of asbestos cement (A.C.) water main with ductile iron (D.I.) pipe. The remaining two locations (Horse Pond Rd. and Union Ave.) already have newly installed 12-inch D.I. pipe in place and would not need to be replaced. Mr. Roy stated that Eversource's plan was to encase the conduit in concrete but was not clear for any plan to mitigate stray electrical currents. Commissioner Sheldon requested that Mr. Roy clarify Eversource's plan for mitigating stray electrical currents and to consider adding cathodic protection for the water main and to find out what National Grid was doing about metallic gas mains at the new Eversource electrical crossings, to which Mr. Roy concurred.

PFAS Litigation:

Treasurer Travers requested an update on the status of the “bellwether case” from SL Environmental. Mr. Roy stated that he had placed a call to the attorney’s office and was waiting for his return call.

There was no further discussion on the Director’s Report.

3. REVIEW DRAFT 87TH ANNUAL & SPECIAL MEETING WARRANTS:

Director Roy presented the draft 87th Annual Meeting Warrant Articles to the Commissioners for their review. The Board members recommended some minor changes to the Articles and requested that Mr. Roy incorporate the changes into the final Warrant and have it ready for review at the next Commissioner’s meeting.

4. DISCUSSION ON WATER RESSOURCE PROTECTION COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Sheldon provided a brief history of the Committee and purpose of its creation. He stated that in 1996 a group submitted a petition article (Article 50) to the 1996 Annual to form a committee for the purpose of protecting Sudbury’s water resources and that the committee would be managed by the Sudbury Water District. That article passed, establishing the committee. That committee of members appointed by the District, the Select Board (Board of Selectmen at the time), the Board of Health, the Conservation Commission, and the Planning Board. The Committee met about four or five times, each meeting to discuss a specific development being proposed to the Planning Board. After each review, one of the committee members presented comments and recommendations to the Planning Board.

The committee members eventually stopped meeting as the number of developments for review decreased and other time commitments drew members away from committee activities. The committee remained dormant to this day.

Commissioner Sheldon noted that the committee is no longer needed. There is much more interaction between staff members at the District and the Town boards and Conservation Commission, and that interaction has fostered close working relationships to discuss individual perspectives whenever urgent matters arise.

Director Roy and others in the District work closely with their staff-level counterparts at the Town to meet the demands of coordinating water resources, water supply, aquifer protection, and other water-related matters.

Chairman Fox noted that the Town’s Planning Department routinely emails copies of proposed plans for subdivisions and renovation projects to all Department Managers as well as the District for their review in advance of presentations to the Planning Board. Chairman Fox also stated that he would reach out to the Select Board’s liaison to the District, Dan Carty, to inform him that Commissioners are in favor of disbanding the Committee and would support a Town Meeting article to disband the Committee.

5. REVIEW DRAFT REVISED EMPLOYEE POLICY (HANDBOOK):

Commissioner Boyd was called away on a personal matter at the start of this discussion. Given the importance of the matter, attendees agreed that it would be best to defer discussion on this topic to a future meeting when the entire Board can be present.

Conclusion of Open Meeting:

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

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairman - Aye

The Open Meeting concluded at 6:15 p.m.