

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
AUGUST 8, 2023

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 5:05 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 – Present; and Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner and Chairman – Present.

Board Members Not Present: None

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

Virtually Present: None.

1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS JULY 11, 2023, MEETING:

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of July 11, 2023, as amended. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sheldon, and duly seconded by Chairman Boyd and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR’S JULY 21st AND AUGUST 4th BI-WEEKLY REPORTS:

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

Rave Alert Messaging:

Commissioner Fox informed Director Roy that he was not receiving any of the alert messages that the District has put out. Mr. Roy stated that he spoke with the Town’s IT Director Mark Thompson about the issue a few weeks ago and thought that the issue had been resolved. Mr. Roy also stated that he would reach out directly to Rave Alert to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

Lead Service Line (LSL) Investigation Project:

Commissioner Sheldon asked Director Roy if he was aware of a requirement for the District to vote for a formal acceptance of any grant that is received by the District, the most recent being the LSL grant from MassDEP. Mr. Roy responded that the Commissioners voted to authorize him to submit the LSL grant application and to execute any related documents thereafter. Commissioner Sheldon stated that he was informed by a colleague that the governing body is required to take a formal vote on acceptance once the grant has been awarded. Commissioner Boyd stated that the Town’s Select Board routinely takes a formal vote to accept grants for the Fire Department prior to the expenditure of grant funds. Mr. Roy stated that he would confer with District Counsel Lawson Williams to draft a grant acceptance policy and present it to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

Transfer of funds:

Treasurer Travers informed the Commissioners that the District recently transferred funds from the Main Street Money Market account to cover expenditures due to lower-than-expected revenues. Mr. Travers also stated

that he and Karen Moretti would be meeting with the District's investment advisor in September to discuss OPEB and investments. Treasurer Travers asked Mrs. Moretti if the actuarial evaluation had been completed, to which Mrs. Moretti responded that she was still waiting on Bartholemew to provide their final figures.

Staffing:

Commissioner Fox asked Mr. Roy to provide an update on James Jackson's expected return to work, to which Mr. Roy stated that Mr. Jackson's injury has been improving but is expected to keep him out of work for at least two more weeks.

There were no further questions about the Director's Reports.

3. DISCUSSTION ON MWRA EXPANSION STUDY FINAL REPORT:

Commissioner Sheldon informed the Commissioners that if there was any intent to become a member of the MWRA before the entrance fee waiver deadline of December 31, 2027, the District would need to complete Massachusetts Environmental Policy (MEPA) review, Inter-basin Transfer Act review by the Water Resources Commission (WRC), formal approval by the District, and possible legislative approval. Once all of the items have been completed, the membership application is then reviewed by the MWRA Advisory Board for vote on acceptance. Commissioner Sheldon also stated that MWRA staff have said the process is about two years. Because this would require an authorization to undertake these steps, the District needs to consider an article (or articles) to appropriate funding at its next annual meeting. Commissioner Sheldon informed the Commissioners that if the District decided to join after the deadline, then the connection fee would be \$4.3 million for one million gallons (mgd) per day use. Example: the District's average daily demand is about 1.8 mgd x \$4.3 million = \$7.74 million connection fee. Commissioner Fox noted that the Commissioners were relying on Director Roy to navigate the District through this process.

No further discussion on this matter.

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 review and vote to approve the Minutes for the Executive Session of May 2, 2023, and that the chair so declares and to not return to the Open Session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The motion was duly seconded. The motion was subsequently approved unanimously by roll call:

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

There being no further discussion the open meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.