

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF  
MARCH 3, 2026

A quorum being present and Chairperson Joshua Fox being delayed in arrival, Commissioners Sheldon and Boyd agreed that Commissioner Sheldon would be interim chairperson until Commissioner Fox's arrival. Commissioner Sheldon then called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. He announced that the virtual version of the meeting was being recorded and requested those in attendance to state their name and title for the record by roll call:

**Board Members present in person:** Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner – Present; and Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner – Present. Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson, was delayed by about 15 minutes due to a late afternoon snow squall while driving to the meeting.

**Others present in person:** Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director - Present; Thomas S. Travers, Treasurer – Present; Mike Abbondanzio, Foreman – Present; Karen Moretti, Assistant Treasurer - Present; and Renee Adams, Executive Administrator – Present.

**Others present virtually:** Michael G, unknown address and affiliation. He was asked to raise his virtual hand in Zoom if he wished to state his name and address. He never did so throughout the course of the meeting, despite being given several opportunities.

**1. Review and Vote to Approve the Minutes from the Board of Water Commissioners Meeting held on February 25, 2026.**

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes for the February 25, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Boyd moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call vote:

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner – Aye  
Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner – Aye  
(Commissioner Fox had not arrived until after discussion on Agenda Item No. 2.)

**2. Review of the Director's February 13, 2026, and February 27, 2026, Bi-Weekly Reports.**

Director Roy presented his bi-weekly report, covering the following topics:

- *AFFF Multi-District Litigation:*  
Commissioner Sheldon noted on the report that the District had received its disbursement payment from DuPont Chemical related to the AFFF multi-district litigation. Director Roy stated that the District received a wire transfer in the amount of \$250,495.07 from DuPont Chemical on February 6, 2026.
- *East Street WTP/Greensand Filters:*  
Commissioner Sheldon requested that Director Roy provide an update on the recent inspection of the greensand filters at the East Street WTP. Mr. Roy reported that Andrew Taylor of Water Service Professionals was on site on February 26th to inspect the condition of the greensand media within each vessel. He explained that Mr. Taylor was only able to inspect three of the six vessels due to corrosion affecting the securing mechanisms on the access hatches of the other three. Mr. Roy stated that the inspection of the accessible vessels showed the Greensand media to be in satisfactory condition and would probably be suitable for an additional four years of service. Since the age of the media in the other three vessels is about the same, it would be expected that the media would be in similarly good condition. This will be confirmed when remaining three vessels are inspected, tentatively scheduled for next week, pending delivery of the new hatches and fasteners.
- *East Street WTP/ PFAS Treatment Project:*  
Director Roy informed the Commissioners that Barbato Construction has proposed a conceptual plan to address the removal of the hatch covers from each of the carbon vessels. Mr. Roy explained that

Barbato Construction's proposed plan is to construct two fixed gantry systems, with each system serving two vessels. The systems would be permanently installed between the paired vessels and would not require any modifications to existing piping or electrical components. According to Mr. Roy, the gantry systems would allow staff to safely remove and reinstall the 1,400-pound hatch covers as needed. Each system would utilize an electric chain hoist, enabling staff to lower the covers to the floor while performing maintenance.

Commissioner Sheldon asked who would be responsible for the cost of the gantry systems. Mr. Roy responded that Barbato Construction and Weston & Sampson had already agreed to split the cost evenly, and that the District would incur no additional expense for a proposed change order. Treasurer Travers asked that Mr. Roy make sure that Weston and Sampson did not charge The District for their time resolving this issue.

Chairperson Fox indicated that the proposed solution was reasonable and stated that, if the District's staff was comfortable with the approach, he was supportive of moving forward. He then asked Commissioner Sheldon and Commissioner Boyd whether they had any objections; both confirmed they had none. Mr. Roy added that he would contact Andy Reid of Weston & Sampson the following day to request that they proceed with the proposed plan.

There were no further questions regarding the Director's Bi-Weekly Reports.

### **Temporary Suspension of Open Meeting to Move into Executive Session at 5:30 pm**

Chairperson Fox moved to temporarily close the open public meeting and enter executive session, with the intention of returning to open session upon its conclusion. The stated purpose of the executive session was pursuant to MGL c. 30A, 21(a) (7) to comply with or act under the authority MGL c4,7 cl.26(c) for the purposes of discussing a customer's sensitive financial information. Abatement Appeal Request/ 48 Chanticleer Road, and to review and vote to approve the executive session minutes for February 3, 2026, and February 25, 2026. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call vote:

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

### **Return to Open Meeting at 6:36**

Chairperson Fox reopened the public meeting to continue discussions on the remaining agenda items.

#### **3. Review Connection Fees.**

Director Roy presented the Commissioners with a recently completed survey of surrounding communities and nearby water districts regarding their respective connection fees. He noted that all surveyed communities—except the City of Marlborough—had updated their fees within the last two years. The District's most recent review and increase of its connection fees occurred in 2017.

Commissioner Sheldon requested that Director Roy provide a copy of the District's Water Service Application Form to better understand the connection-fee rate structure and how it is viewed by potential new connection applicants. After reviewing the application, the commissioners agreed that the form appeared somewhat complicated and confusing. Chairperson Fox suggested tabling further discussion of this topic until the next meeting.

There was no further discussion on this topic.

#### **4. Review 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Warrant and Special Meeting Warrant.**

Director Roy presented the Commissioners with the 90th Annual Meeting Warrant and the Special Meeting Warrant for their review. Chairperson Fox requested that Director Roy also provide his draft FY2027 budget so the Commissioners could compare it with the warrants, noting that discussion on the

item would need to be postponed allowing sufficient time for review. Mr. Roy distributed hard copies of the draft FY2027 budget and stated that he would include the item on the agenda for the next meeting.

**5. Review Draft Employee Policy.**

The Commissioners postponed discussion on this item to the next Commissioners' meeting.

**Conclusion of Open Meeting**

Chairperson Fox moved to adjourn the open public meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and was approved by a unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner– Aye

Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner - Aye

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.