

**NORTH SAGAMORE WATER DISTRICT**  
**MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 30, 2022**

The North Sagamore Water District Board of Water Commissioners held their meeting on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the North Sagamore Water District office, 14 Squanto Road, Sagamore Beach, MA. Chairperson Mark Melchionda called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Those in attendance at the start of the meeting were Chairperson Mark Melchionda, Commissioner Sala joined the meeting remotely, Superintendent Matt Sawicki and Treasurer Maureen Fruci. Commissioner Bergeron was not able to attend the meeting. Chairperson Mark Melchionda called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm with a roll call attendance: Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Melchionda – yes.

**2:00 pm - UNDER CHAPTER 40, SECTION 56, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 369 OF THE ACTS OF 1982, AND CHAPTER 79 OF THE ACTS OF 1983, THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON WHETHER THE NORTH SAGAMORE WATER DISTRICT/BOURNE PORTION SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE CLASSIFICATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Rui Pereira, Assessor for the town of Bourne provided the Board with the information for the classification hearing. Mr. Pereira said the Board of Assessors recommends retaining one tax rate for all classes of property for FY23. The Board of Assessors feels that the relatively small benefit to the residential taxpayer that could be achieved through the use of two tax rates is not warranted. Bourne is largely a residential community that simply does not have enough of a commercial/industrial base to make classification worthwhile. He further explained North Sagamore Water District's valuation increased 20.1% from FY22. The District tax rate will come down because the valuations went up. He estimates the rate to be \$.75, down from \$.84 in FY22.

Commissioner Sala made a motion that the Board of Water Commissioners adopt a single tax rate by selecting a residential factor of 1 in determining the allocation of taxes to be borne by the 4 classes of real property along with personal for FY23. The Board also votes not to adopt an open space discount, residential exemption, senior means tested exemption and a small commercial exemption for FY23. Commissioner Melchionda seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Melchionda – yes.

Mr. Pereira left the meeting at 2:17 pm.

**2:15 pm - UNDER CHAPTER 40, SECTION 56, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 369 OF THE ACTS OF 1982, AND CHAPTER 79 OF THE ACTS OF 1983, THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON WHETHER THE NORTH SAGAMORE WATER DISTRICT/SANDWICH PORTION SHOULD IMPLEMENT THE CLASSIFICATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022**

Ben Styche, Director of Assessing for the town of Sandwich addressed the Board regarding the classification hearing. He explained the assessors are still doing the valuations and setting the tax rate. Mr. Styche said there could be a 15% or more increase in valuations. There are 292 accounts in the Sandwich portion of the District. He also noted there is no commercial property in this portion of the District so there is no option for a split tax rate. He said the Board of Assessors recommends one tax rate for the District in FY23. Commissioner Sala made a motion that North Sagamore Water District Board of Water Commissioners adopt a factor of 1 for FY23 with no open space discount, no residential exemption and no small commercial exemption. Commissioner Melchionda seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Melchionda – yes.

**DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE ON FY20, FY21 & FY22 AUDITS**

Superintendent Sawicki said that after the Board reviewed the FY20 audit at the last meeting and determined that it cannot be used as it is and in light of the fact the District will be borrowing in FY24, he suggested the District send out an rfp for the FY20, FY21 and FY22 audits. He suggested sending the rfp to 4-5 firms including the firm that was going to do the FY21 and FY22 audits, focusing on firms that specialize in water districts.

The Board recommended the District not pay Korbey Lague and reject the FY20 audit. They suggested drafting a letter to the firm to let them know of their concerns. The Board recommended Attorney Troy review the letter before it is sent. The Superintendent said he will send the rfp out tomorrow so the Board will have time to review all of the information before the meeting on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Sawicki also suggested including a price for audits for FY20-FY25 in the rfp as well, in the hope of getting a better price. He said then the District will have good audits for the rating agency. The Board said the most important thing is the audits needs to be done properly. The rating agency will go back 5 years for the rating. Commissioner Sala made a motion that the District send out an rfp for audits for FY20, 21, 22 and for FY20-FY25. Commissioner Melchionda seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Melchionda - yes.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Sala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. He also suggested moving the December meeting to earlier in the afternoon as well perhaps 12:00 or 12:30 pm. Commissioner Melchionda seconded the motion. Roll call vote – Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Melchionda – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Fruci,  
District Clerk