

NORTH SAGAMORE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 19, 2022

The North Sagamore Water District Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 4:15 pm at the North Sagamore Water District office, 14 Squanto Road, Sagamore Beach, MA.

Those in attendance at the start of the meeting were Commissioner Mark Melchionda, Commissioner Mark Bergeron, Superintendent Matt Sawicki and Treasurer Maureen Fruci. Commissioner George Sala and Moderator Stephen Mealy joined the meeting remotely.

Chairperson Mark Melchionda called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm with a roll call attendance: Commissioner Sala - yes, Commissioner Bergeron - yes, Commissioner Melchionda - yes.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES DATED 9/14/22

Commissioner Bergeron made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated 9/14/22 as written. Commissioner Sala seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Bergeron – yes, Commissioner Melchionda – yes.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE ON PURCHASE OF RETIRED CRANBERRY BOG (0 CHURCH LN., MAP 6.0, PARCEL 19.0) ABUTTING NSWD PROPERTY FOR WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PURPOSES

The Board met with John Goduti owner of the retired cranberry bog which abuts District property. Mr. Goduti is interested in selling the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre parcel to the District. Commissioner Melchionda asked if he had a price in mind. Mr. Goduti said he spoke with a couple of realtors who did not actually see the property and it was suggested that perhaps the land could be worth \$50,000. Commissioner Bergeron asked if the District is the only abutter. Superintendent Sawicki said yes and he thinks it would benefit the District to have control of all of the property in Zone 2 in order to protect the water shed.

Commissioner Sala asked if the Conservation Department has been contacted. The Superintendent said yes and because it is considered wetlands it can't be built on. Commissioner Sala said the assessment of the property is only \$700.

Superintendent Sawicki explained to Mr. Goduti that in order for the District to purchase anything there are many steps that need to be taken. He suggested starting with a land survey and a review by District counsel. In addition, there is also a public hearing process through DEP when you buy land for water purposes.

Commissioner Bergeron asked if the right of way could be conveyed to a third party. The Superintendent said it could be. Commissioner Bergeron said that is a concern. Commissioner Melchionda said the first thing that needs to be done is an independent appraisal and then perhaps come to an agreement with Mr. Goduti. He said the land could be an asset for the District in order to protect the water shed. Superintendent Sawicki suggested using a company that does municipal appraisals.

Commissioner Melchionda told Mr. Goduti it will take some time for the District to get an appraisal and have the District counsel review the potential purchase. After that it will have to go before District voters at the Annual District Meeting in April. The Superintendent made copies of the deed. The Board said they will be in contact with Mr. Goduti.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE – UPDATE ON FY23/24 CAPITAL PROJECTS

-PHILLIPS ROAD WATER MAIN – PHASE 1

Superintendent Sawicki said he would like to update the Board on FY23 and FY24 capital projects. He began with the Phillips Road water main project – phase 1. He said this project should come in with a price of \$1.3 million and barring any changes that is what will be presented at the Annual District Meeting.

-NORRIS ROAD TANK TRANSMISSION MAIN

The Superintendent said this project is expected to come in at \$1.6 million.

-BLACK POND REPLACEMENT WELL

The survey has been completed. The location of the well will be 10-12' from the existing building. MADEP has multiple restrictions and setbacks that must be maintained for a replacement well. It will not be as ideal as initially thought in regards to redundancy. However, this was the best location. The Superintendent said it will not be a separate source, but it is the way to expedite the permit process to get another well.

-CLARK ROAD TANK LADDER REPLACEMENT

The Superintendent said the District will bid this project in November/December with construction starting in the spring.

-WTP LAGOON SLUDGE REMOVAL

This project will be bid in December/January with the work to begin in the spring.

-GENERATOR

The Superintendent said most of the work for this project will be done in-house. He said they will have to see what needs to be done to get natural gas. He said the generator will be placed inside the fence next to the tank and will get gas from Clark Road. There is no gas on Squanto Road.

He said currently the District has funding for the smaller projects, however, he is concerned about costs being higher. He said they will have to prioritize projects.

There was a discussion about the cost of a Generac generator. Commissioner Melchionda said the most important thing is the service contract. The Superintendent said they use South Shore Generator. Commissioner Melchionda said if natural gas can't be brought in, propane would have to be used. Two 100 gallon tanks would be needed and would have to be filled. Commissioner Bergeron suggested the District pay to have the natural gas pipe installed. The Superintendent said the trench could be done in-house. Commissioner Melchionda recommended getting started on this project as soon as possible.

Commissioner Melchionda asked how much of an increase residents can expect with all of these projects. Superintendent Sawicki said approximately \$287.00 per household over a six-year period.

There was a discussion regarding financing for these projects with concerns regarding rising bond rates. Mr. Mealy suggested meeting with a bond officer.

Commissioner Sala suggested the driveway and entrance to the District office should be paved. He said it is a safety issue for the elderly and people with disabilities especially when it gets icy. The Superintendent said the prep work can be done in-house. He will get prices on the paving.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED MADEP WATER MANAGEMENT ACT REGISTRATION RENEWAL CONDITIONS

Superintendent Sawicki said he wanted to make the Board aware that DEP is proposing an amendment to the WMA regulations to include a new condition on Registration renewals that would restrict nonessential outdoor water use during times of drought. The District currently has a Water Management Act permit that dictates non-essential watering. However, we will need to renew our Registration this year and it may open us up to more stringent water restrictions.

He said the District's permit could be tied to the state drought regulations. If that were to happen, the District would have had bans all through the summer. Superintendent Sawicki said there was a round table meeting today with Mass Water Works and one of the things that was mentioned is DEP doesn't care if these regulations hurt revenue. They feel revenue shouldn't be dependent on irrigation. He said he is also starting to see it in newer permits. DEP is asking for lists of people with irrigation to make sure they follow regulations. He said it could affect the District sooner than later. Commissioner Melchionda asked if DEP takes into consideration that the District has a seasonal population. The Superintendent said yes for now. He said the District doesn't have an issue with the water in the ground. Commissioner Bergeron asked if the District has options. The Superintendent said for now, but eventually DEP will catch up to the District with drought regulations. Mr. Mealy asked if any cape towns have banned new irrigation. Superintendent Sawicki said Bourne and Mashpee Water have.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE ON UPCOMING RATE STUDY

The Superintendent said money was approved at last year's Annual District Meeting for a rate study. He said he wants to discuss the scope of what should be considered with the rate study. He suggested looking at adding more tiers, reviewing the base charge, looking at connection and backflow fees and consider adding a water ban rate. He said it would also be good to get back to a 50/50 split with rates and taxes. He said it is important to look at what projected water usage will be. He suggested really looking at the numbers for the Recap. Commissioner Melchionda said the District needs to set the tiers so it covers all usage levels. He said it's not enough to only hit the highest tier.

The Superintendent said the next step is to choose the right person to do the rate study. He suggested using Doug Gardner again because he is local and he knows the District's system. He said it will be important to work closely with him and steer him in the right direction for what the District wants to achieve. If we have the rate study done, we can say we are following what our rate study says at the Recap time.

Commissioner Melchionda said if the District is forced to implement restrictions there will need to be another way to fund all of the upcoming capital projects. He said the rates have been very reasonable and it's time to catch up with everything. Taxes and rates need to be increased. Commissioner Bergeron said with inflation people are getting used to the rising costs. The Superintendent said information about the rate study and possible increases will be included with the next water bill. The Superintendent said water bans are out of the District's control. Mr. Mealy said it's a good time to start discussing the cost increase of water. Commissioner Melchionda said the Board has always been in the mindset to keep water rates low and raise the tax because it's a write off. Mr. Mealy said it's not the same business anymore. The plan has to change due to mandatory conservation. It is time to make those adjustments about what will happen in the future. The Board agreed it is time to look at these things sooner than later.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Sawicki told the Board pumping numbers went down in September.

The new Assistant Superintendent will start work on November 7, 2022.

The Superintendent informed the Board there are new rules regarding lead and copper. MADEP and EPA is requiring the District complete a spreadsheet showing what each service is made of and what year it was installed. He said it will be a time consuming process but Jon Devine will assist with the project.

The District received good news with no major hits on the PFAS samples.

Superintendent Sawicki said there was a coliform hit on one of the water samples on Noreast Drive. A re-sample has been done and the results will be in tomorrow.

The Superintendent said he has a vacation scheduled for 12/10/22-12/15/22.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Fruci said there are currently 87 accounts with outstanding balances totaling \$19,933.07.

Quarterly bills were sent to 6 accounts with a total commitment of \$10,932.

The FY23 water lien list is being prepared. When the list is finalized it will be sent to the town of Bourne to be added to the 3rd and 4th quarter property tax bills.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS/SELECT NEXT MEETING DATE

The Board said they are happy for the Superintendent and the District with the addition of the new Assistant Superintendent. The next monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Sala made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sala - yes, Commissioner Bergeron - yes, Commissioner Melchionda - yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Fruci
District Clerk