

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, May 20, 2021

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at the Wannacomet Water Company, 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Nonie Slavitz, Nelson Eldridge and Robert Benchley were present. Commissioners absent: John Pearl. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, Denese Allen - Business Manager, Julia Cavanaugh - Intern. Public present: Curtis Barnes.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Reinhard at 9:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Commission accepted the agenda as printed by unanimous consent.
3. **Public Comment:** Mr. Barnes stated he was here for the work being done at North Liberty Street, urging the paving be complete by June 30th. Commissioner Reinhard commented that additional drainage work needs to be done by the DPW.
4. **Production and Billing Report:** Director Willett reviewed the Production and Billing Report noting the increased use in May, stating we pumped 2.8 million gallons in mid-May, and mentioned the Sewer Department is also seeing an increased flow at the plant. Mr. Willett noted flow is up 36%, anticipating the biggest May on record, and Siasconset Water also saw a similar increase, suggesting people never left, most likely due to COVID.
5. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Town Election: Write-in Option** – Commissioner Reinhard stated there are five candidates for three years and no two-year candidates. Commissioner Benchley mentioned when he picked up papers from the Town Clerk's office, he was not told to differentiate between two or three years, and the other Commissioners were also in agreement. Mr. Barnes asked to speak on the matter and stated he is planning on doing a write-in campaign for the two-year seat. Commissioner Slavitz suggested a sticker write-in campaign for future write-in candidates.
 - b. **Article 91 – PFAS Regulations** – Mr. Willett explained that the proposed level for Nantucket is 15 parts per trillion (ppt) which is lower than the State's 20 ppt, and when we reach 15 ppt we would need to submit an "action plan". Mr. Willett cited the difficulty with the article is regarding "who" to submit the plan to and the problem lies in how the article was written. Mr. Willett also stated that if we ever saw the number rise up at all, we would take action before we even reached the lower threshold – we are not opposed to the lower threshold, it is just tricky who to report it to and what enforcement would be as the DEP's regulations are 20 ppt. Mr. Willett also stated the Massachusetts regulation at 20 ppt is currently the most stringent in the country.

- c. **Solar power at Wannacomet Water Company** – Mr. Willett reported he has had weekly meetings with the Nantucket Land Bank, looking at options of mitigation, talking with the Monomoy group. Mr. Willett also stated the Monomoy group wrote a memorandum of Agreement to the Water Commission asking not to put anything other than use for water in Wyer's Valley, stating mitigation is the last hurdle. Mr. Willett commented we are working on the land swap for the scrub oak, and we are also waiting on more test results.
- d. **Airport PFAS project** – Mr. Willett reported to the Commission the project has the potential to be very big and the Airport still has not tied in everyone nearby the airport – they are still negotiating the "water credit" where these customers would have a one-time credit toward their water bill. Mr. Willett also mentioned to add all these services we will need to look at the hydraulics to get the additional water to these new connections. Mr. Willett reported we currently have a groundwater investigation looking into new well sites and mentioned we can ask for an imminent threat to help expedite the permit issue for this. Commissioner Slavitz asked how all of this will influence our 5-10-year plan. Mr. Willett stated he will present a breakdown at the next meeting.
6. **Commissioner's comments and reserved for unforeseen items for discussion by the Chair:** Commissioner Slavitz asked if we could re-visit the housing issue. Mr. Willett stated he spoke with Finance Director, Brian Turbitt, regarding using retained earnings to build additional housing at 43 Polpis Road, stating the current need for Water employee housing, and said the Town is trying to find a place for the DPW Director. Mr. Willett also stated we are looking at a rent limit on future rental housing. Commissioner Reinhard reported that he has been asked about the possibility of recording our meetings in the future. Mr. Willett stated we are currently not included in the Town's original agreement with NCTV, but it is something we can investigate for the future.
7. **Adjournment to Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §§ 21(A)**
Exemption 2: At 9:40 AM the Chair asked to call the Executive Session to order via roll call vote to Discuss Strategy in Preparation for Contract Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel (Director), as the chair declares that an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in contract negotiations. The Chairman will read the section, take a roll call vote to enter executive session and will not reconvene in open session.
8. **Adjournment:** The regular meeting session adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Meeting packet included Agenda, Production and Billing Reports and Annual Rainfall report.

Nantucket Water Commission

Executive Session Minutes of May 20, 2021

An Executive Session Meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at the offices of the Wannacomet Water Company, 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners present: Commissioner and Chairman Allen Reinhard, and Commissioners Nonie Slavtitz, Nelson Eldridge, and Robert Benchley. *Commissioners absent:* John Pearl

Staff and Guests: Mark Willett – Director

The meeting took place in the Conference Room at 1 Milestone Road. Chairman and Commissioner Allen Reinhard called the meeting to order at 9:41 AM after asking each commissioner to unanimously open the meeting by roll call vote, which was unanimous.

Negotiations to the Director's contract were discussed with terms agreed upon by Mark Willett and the Commission, and the contract was signed by Mark Willett and the Nantucket Water Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Noreen Slavitz and Nelson Eldridge, with Robert Benchley as witness.

There being no further business to come before the commission, the meeting was unanimously adjourned by roll call vote at 10:10 AM.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Allen B. Reinhard
June 24, 2021