

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, January 12, 2023

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, January 12, 2023, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Robert Benchley, and Nelson Eldridge. Commissioner Pearl was unable to attend the meeting today. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director and Linda Roberts – Project Coordinator. Shelby Campbell – Business Manager was present for contract review and discussion. *Public:* Nantucket Land Council Executive Director Emily Molden and their Attorney Dennis Murphy.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made to accept the agenda as presented by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously accepted.
3. **Public Comment and Item 6-a:** To accommodate our guest the Chairman went directly to Item #6-a the Solar Project. Emily Molden and Dennis Murphy spoke to their concerns and have provided text that they would be happy to answer questions about. Attorney Murphy proposed having the Commission sign a statement to protect the water companies' property and document that it is not the intent of the commission to change the use of the property. Chairman Reinhard reviewed the history of the solar project from the beginning spoke about regulations, the protections that are in place and would argue that solar project supports the operation of water and that we owe it to the rate payer to do this. He went on to say that the solar is part of the mission is to provide healthy drinking water to the public and that the commission doesn't see solar as a conflict as it is ancillary to the Wannacomet Water Company's operation. With regard to article 97 we are in disagreement with you as we are not violating our mission and we are not changing our use. Commissioner Benchley stated that we don't see this as a change of use and that it seems like we keep repeating what we have said. After some further discussion back and forth the motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Benchley, and unanimously voted to state that it is not the intent of the Nantucket Water Commission to change the mission by adding solar. The guests thanked the Commission and left the room at 8:12 AM.
4. **Review of Minutes from the December 8, 2022, meetings.** Motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge to accept both meeting minutes except for adding an r to the end of sola in item 3. The motion was unanimously approved.
5. **Production, Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett commented on the precipitation. Pumpage is on the normal trend downward for this time of year. Billing is going well since the installation of the new antenna and staff are working with anyone needing time to pay.
6. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Solar Project:** Taken out of order and discussed under public comment.
 - b. **West of Airport Main Project:** Work on extending the water main and transportation project continues. Meetings and supply chain issues continue. A meeting is scheduled at 4 Fairgrounds Road Public Safety Facility for today at 5:30 PM.
 - c. **Calendar Year Stats 2022:** Director Willett reviewed the 2022 stats for Wannacomet and Siasconset. Wannacomet pumped 674,195,000 gallons of water. The second highest pumping year in Wannacomet's history. Five million less than last year. Sconset pumped

72,089,904 gallons of water. The most water pumped in the history for Sconset Water. Four million more than last year. 197 services were installed. 8 Fire services were added. 16 services were added to Sconset. 173 services were added for Wannacommet Water. 14,554 feet of water new mains were installed (approximately 2.75 miles of pipe).

- d. **2024 Budget:** Presentation to the Finance Committee is scheduled for Saturday, January 28. Director Willett discussed the 2024 budget the new mode for Capital planning and keeping funds for an engineer on staff that could assist with other work and possible a part time person to help with administration work. The TGB radio equipment needs to be upgraded. The Commission praised Director Willett on his Capital plan. Discussion about needed maintenance at the Towners, the garage and Sconset took place. Clow Valves is sending Bett Johnson next week to do a presentation and to talk about needed parts and maintenance. The utility staff have been paid the same for the past three years without any increase during covid. They are proposing 0-2-3% for salary increases from 7/1/22 to 6/30/25. A copy of the Utility Workers Contract was distributed to all commissioners to take home and review for the next meeting. The TGB radio equipment needs to be upgraded.
7. **Execution of Contracts or Amendments if any pending:** After discussion the Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the Miscellaneous Parts and Supplies contracts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously approved.
8. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** None.
9. **Adjournment:** As there was no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 9:49 AM.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Meeting packet included 1/12/23 Agenda and reports.