

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, May 11, 2023

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, May 11, 2023, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Rob Benchley, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl were present. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, Shelby Campbell – Business Manager and Linda Roberts – Project Coordinator. *Public:* None.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized that all commissioners were present and 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 Pearl, and unanimously accepted.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Review of Minutes from the March 9, 2023, and April 13, 2023, meetings.** The minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Barnes raised the question about overtime for night work for the sewer projects. Commissioner Barnes made the motion to accept the minutes for March 9 and April 13 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously approved.
5. **Production, Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett reported precipitation was five inches below this this time last year. The ponds are full, and the water table is good. The USGS drought well at Russell's Way is good. Sconset is down a bit, and it appears like people are returning later this year. Wannacomet had its largest April with 200 new services. Billing is going well. Administrative staff continue to work with people experiencing high bills and those who have fallen behind.
6. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Annual Town Meeting:** Discussion about employee housing and the cost people are paying for rent is escalating to \$8,500 for a year-round family home. All water articles were approved at the May Annual Town Meeting. Commissioners discussed citizen participation in government and the lack of representation of our diverse community. The outdoor lighting article that passed will impact the facilities and parking lot. Director Willett has asked a couple of electrical contractors to crunch the numbers to see what will need to be done to meet this new by law. Insurance companies may have safety concerns with these changes.
 - b. **West of Airport Main Project:** Work on extending the water main project continues. Director Willett has been working with the Licensed State Professional to formulate a document to DEP to designate this area in Zone II as non-usable and nonproductive as we do not want any water used within those boundaries due to PFAS contamination. The triangular area of Monohansett should go out to bid in the next two months. The Lovers Lane article is on the ballot for funding.
 - c. **Sewer force main project:** Director Willett updated the commissioners on the Sewer force main. Progress continues they will be wrapping up the first week of June and resuming in the fall. The in-town portion moved slowly due to all the cross connections along the way and the other materials that are in their way. The surfside area work moves faster and is done at night. It has a 13-foot-deep pressure main that is pitched. Director Willett is revisiting some of the ten-year capital items to follow planned sewer improvements. We continue to work with the sewer department to improve storm water collection.

- d. **Annual Water Quality Report:** The annual reports are being sent to the DEP. Director Willett provided a review of the reports which were shown on the Mondo pad in the meeting room. We have added 185 new connections and 102 miles of pipe. The new well source will add to our permitted volume.
 - e. **Annual CCR (Consumer Confidence Report):** The annual CCR will be completed shortly and available in early June.
7. **Execution of Contracts or Amendments if any pending:** Business Manager Shelby Campbell presented the contract amendment for cross connection device inspections with the Sarian Company and the amendment for meters with the E J Prescott company. Motion was made by Commissioner Benchley, seconded by Commissioner Barnes to approve the amendments for these two contracts. With unanimous approval the Commissioners signed each of the documents.
8. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** Director Willett talked about Town's Compensation study that has not been released. Prior to COVID, each year salaries were revised for COLA and merit pay. After discussion motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Pearl and unanimously voted to provide a 4% COLA for 2023-2024 and authorize the Director to process the COLA and Merit pay to all employees.

The town is scheduling a special town meeting to be held in the fall. This would be the time to do an article for the commission to borrow or transfer retained earnings. The next commission meeting is set for Thursday, June 8, 2023, at 8 AM.

9. **Adjournment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl and unanimously voted to adjourn the regular business meeting at 9:12 AM and unanimously voted to enter into executive session.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Meeting packet included 5/11/23 Agenda, reports and review DEP reports on the Mondo Board.