

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, January 11, 2024

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

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

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized that we had a quorum and called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously accepted the agenda as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Review of Minutes from December 14, 2023.** The minutes will be presented at the February 8, 2024 meeting.
5. **Production, Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett reported the calendar year end production, billing, and rainfall reports. 2023 was the highest gallons pumped for both Wannacomet and Siasconset. Wannacomet pumped 736,542,901 gallons of water and Siasconset 72,984,515 gallons. A significant amount of the seasonal use was for irrigation. 2023 was the lowest rainfall in more than a decade. 2021 was close but recovered from last winter's precipitation. The drought monitoring well is holding the DEP has declared Nantucket and Marthas Vineyard a level 2 significant drought condition. This remains until water levels return to normal conditions. Using the hydraulic model, we can build out the scenarios for future growth. The town's sewer director, David Gray is working on a policy for subdivisions to manage drainage. Water revenue is up.
6. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **West of Airport Water Main Project:** The project has started on Nobadeer Way. The Tom's Way work will begin as soon as we sign and record the easements. The DEP will require the residents of Tom's Way will have to abandon their private wells. They would like one general contractor and one plumber for the project. There was a map showing mid-island labeled as disadvantaged community. Director Willett continues to communicate weekly with the residents of Tom's Way. Motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously accepted the easements as printed. Each Commissioner signed the documents, and the documents were witnessed and notarized. Comment was made about the Governmental signs that are up at the intersection of Webster and Monohansett which were required for the zero percent Federal loan. Director Willett continues to meet with the general contractor CC Construction and engineers.
 - b. **Pump Stations:** Director Willett shared photographs on the Mondo Board showing the Siasconset station buildings poor condition and painting of trim and roof repair maintenance. Estimates for the repairs will be done so we can get tis bid out. The state forest pump has similar needs and the tank building on Washing Pond needs to be repainted. Once sewer comes to this area these structures could be utilized in some way for housing.
 - c. **Staff Openings and Positions:** Director Willett interviewed candidates and has offered a position to Krissy Sullivan. Possibly an additional person will be hired after that.

7. **Discussion, amendment and execution of any personnel or vendor contracts.** None.
8. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** The public information appeal petition to the state by Meghan Perry was reviewed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Supervisor of Records. The Public Records Law strongly favors disclosure by creating a presumption that all governmental records are public records. It is the burden of the records holder to demonstrate the exemption to withhold the request and specify the applicable exemption. Ms. Perry was advised that a public employee is not required to answer questions, do research, or create documents in response to questions. Conclusion: Accordingly, where the Town is not required to answer questions, the administrative appeal has been closed on December 26, 2023. Warrant articles will be reviewed at a public hearing with the finance committee. Director Willett has discussed smart incentives for price reductions implementing solar power with the towns energy coordinator Lauren Sinatra.
9. **Adjournment:** Motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously voted to adjourn the regular business meeting at 9:25 AM.

Approved: Allen B. Reinhardt Date: Feb. 8, 2024

The meeting packet included 1/11/24 Agenda, reports, and information on the Mondo Board.