

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, May 9, 2024

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, May 9, 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 were present. Commissioner Robert Benchley arrived at 8:22 AM. Absent: Commissioner John Pearl. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, and Linda Roberts Project Coordinator, and Shelby Campbell Business Manager. *Public:* Veronica Bolcik and Kerry McKenna with Beth Stone and Michael Stone all residents of Arkansas Avenue.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Barnes, and unanimously accepted the agenda as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** Veronica Bolcik, Kerry McKenna, Beth Stone and Michael Stone introduced themselves to the commissioners. Ms. Bolcik sent an email which was reviewed at last months commission meeting regarding her concerns of PFAS in her area. Testing results were higher than the Massachusetts limits and way over the Federal limits for reasons yet to be determined. Possible because of the landfill or ammunition testing in World War II. Facing health issues, they have attempted some stop gap measures using filters until they can obtain town water. The testing was done through the town's health department which took about six weeks for results. Director Willett brought up the town's GIS maps of the Arkansas area. Director Willett showed the water lines running from Madaket Road to South Cambridge Street and from Madaket Road down to Starbuck Road. Arkansas is situated between Cambridge Street and Starbuck Road. Bringing water to this area would not only bring safe drinking water to the residents but would help with water flow and fire protection. The Director estimated the costs to be \$340 per foot for approximately 1,940 feet = \$660,000 to install the pipe and hydrants and service stubs. This project would be much like Tom's Way and West of the Airport. The project would be moved up from other capital items due to health concerns. It will be necessary to receive easements from all the residents of Arkansas Avenue to move forward. Ms. Bolcik has been communicating with the neighbors for road maintenance and could use that contact information to get them to respond with the information needed for utility easements. If all went well, we might be able to do this in the fall. Discussion about filtrations devices and their maintenance took place. The Commissioners thanked the guests who attended, and Commissioner Benchley apologized for being a little late and reassured the guests of his shared concern and the importance of this matter.
4. **Review of Minutes from April 11, 2024.** After review, the motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge, and unanimously approved to accept the minutes from the April 11, 2024 meeting as presented.
5. **Production, Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett provided the production, billing, and rainfall reports for the first four months of 2024. Rainfall has been good recently however the DEP still has us under a mild drought condition. When you take the first four months of rain from the past six years, we are down point seven inches of the other years at 12.45 inches. The USGS two-inch monitoring well was checked on May 2, 2024. Director Willett met with the USGS DOT and DEP representatives and discussed installation of an additional drought monitoring well near Russell's Way. Ideally, we would like to have it go down 170 to 180 feet so it's in the middle aquifer with the same setup, data collection, solar powered and radio read. This would allow for better data collection and to see how ground water, and the two

monitoring wells impacts the other. Production is the second largest April for both Wannacomet and Siasconset. We have shifted to the early summer pumpage four weeks earlier than prior years. The landscapers are out in force and irrigation companies are starting up the systems for the season. Given that it takes five years once we get the new well online, we will start the process for another well. Our billing company has been receiving files back and forth from the Business Manager and they were able to mail and email all the customers' monthly bills in the first week in March. The email bills include pdf files of the invoices as well as snapshot images. The DEP continues to test private wells in the mid island further out areas. The Town's IT department has limited the number of emails we can send out making it impossible for us to do in house billing. They wanted us off their server, so our solution was to pay our software company to assist in the transition to get everything up into the cloud.

6. Director's Review and Updates:

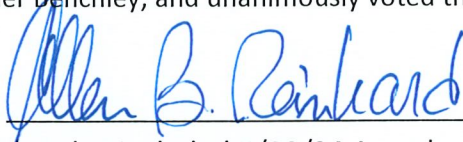
- a. **West of Airport Water Main Project:** C C Construction has moved to the cleanup work and punch list for the project from Nobadeer Way down Monohansett Road to Orkawaw and finishing Lovers Lane. Director Willett has been in touch with the Nantucket Current for an article about the project which will include an interview with Meg Ruley from Tom's Way. Director Willett continues to communicate with the residents of Tom's Way who are dealing on their own with removal of their expansion tanks and decommissioning the private wells. The sewer department will assist with the storm water drainage issues on Lovers Lane. With the water line going into the ground there is interest from surrounding homeowners nearby. Lawrence Lynch's crew will need asphalt for the Airport project soon.
- b. **Sewer Force Main Update:** Director Willett reported on the progress being made with in town sewer work. The Robert B Our and N & M Company are completing their in-town sewer work. They should have it buttoned up by Memorial Day. We are going down tomorrow to bring back meters for Gardner and Liberty Streets. The intown sewer work will resume next fall and go on through the winter.
- c. **Annual Town Meeting:** Discussion and review over the past two nights of Town meeting took place.
- d. **Future Capital Projects:** The Director has had the tanks inspected and is working on the maintenance costs and specifications for cleaning, painting, and repair. Given the amount of PFAS and the changes in the regulations there will need to extend water further and into other areas where we weren't before. A joint meeting with the Select Board, Water Commission and the Board of Health will need to be held as there will be fiscal impacts.
- e. **Personnel Update:** After discussion the Commissioners agreed to and signed personnel action forms authorizing the Director to increase Kristine Sullivan's wages as she has completed her probationary period as our Customer Service Assistant. The EPA finalized their judgement for PFAS and PFOS regulation changes of four parts per trillion. The Director is meeting with the town's PFAS work group on Thursday. We will need to identify a new location and move forward with a new well. The Director and Business Manager are working with the Finance Department to process the contract for the Lovers Lane generator as an emergency. The Director is working with the Town's Energy Coordinator Lauren Sinatra on getting a bid for putting panels on the water company buildings.

7. Discussion, amendment, and execution of any personnel or vendor contracts: Review of the Sarian Contract for cross connection devices took place. Motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge, and unanimously voted to sign the contract. Given the increase for inspections motion was made by Commissioner Barnes seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously voted to increase the inspection fee to \$200 per inspection.

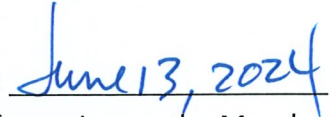
8. Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair. The island's electricity is a concern with one of the cables offline.

9. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Benchley, and unanimously voted the regular business meeting at 10:22 AM.

Approved:



Date:



The meeting packet included 5/09/24 Agenda, reports, and information on the Mondo Board.