

Nantucket Water Commission

Minutes of Thursday, October 10, 2024

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, October 10, 2024, 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, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl were present. *Commissioners Absent:* None. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, Shelby Campbell – Business Manager and Linda Roberts Project Coordinator. *Public:* None.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard recognized a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Motion made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously accepted the agenda as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** None present.
4. **Review of Minutes from September 12, 2024.** After review, Commissioner Eldridge made the motion to accept, seconded by Commissioner Barnes. All others except for Commissioner Benchley voted to approve the meeting minutes from September 12, 2024, as presented. Commissioner Benchley who abstained as he was not present.
5. **Production, Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett provided the production, billing, and rainfall reports. The recent storm with bumped up this year's rain fall to an inch over all from last year and ended the drought condition. Wannacomet production was a little up for September and the third quarter was slightly higher than last year. Sconset was slightly over last September but under the 2022 with those staying here during COVID. The Sconset tank is holding steady and right where it should be. Billing is going well with only a few customers not responding to their delinquent bills. Some contractors have reported difficulty paying as they haven't been paid for work.
6. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Tank Maintenance:** The Director has been reviewing the necessary tank maintenance or replacement of the next five years. To do interior and exterior maintenance for the Sconset tank will require having to drain the tank to paint the inside and would require a temporary fire system with pumps for fire protection. The inspection video of the robot inside the tanks should be available soon. The epoxy requires temperatures to be above 42 or 43 degrees. This prevents us from doing work in the cold months. Will look at multiple options once we have the numbers and plan for temporary tanks. It would require full containment, climate control and encapsulate tanks. The Director will schedule a special meeting with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and the commission to discuss a plan for fire protection and booster pumps, etc. Sconset needs maintenance first then Washing Pond and after that North Pasture. approximately \$2.9 million to repair, sand, paint, and coat with replacement four to five million. The Director will have them rework the numbers for interior and exterior maintenance needs so we can compare replacement versus repair.
 - b. **Five Year Outlook:** The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is requiring all lead services be removed within eight years. We will be contacting all customers regarding the age of the home, and to remove any lead to the first tap being their kitchen sink. recently adopted new PFAS drinking water standards for Public Water Supplies. This new regulation is different than the MADEP (Mass Department of Environmental Protection) regulation and will be enforced in the next three years. MADEP is currently reviewing the EPA regulation.

MADEP can add to the EPA regulation to make it more stringent but cannot adopt anything less stringent than the EPA's PFAS regulation. Currently MADEP looks at the sum of 6 different PFAS compounds. That sum must be less than 20 parts per trillion. After discussions with MASDEP it is assumed that they will change the current regulation to not only match the EPA's but could add more PFAS compounds to it. If PFAS treatment was needed Wannacomet could be looking at a \$25M price tag for treatment and a \$1M a year treatment operation cost. These regulatory mandates will add sampling costs and potentially a large capital expense if treatment is needed. Other future mandates will include the lead service removal regulation that was extended out for three years and the addition of more PFAS compounds. The Director reviewed capital projects over the next eight years. These included areas which are being identified by the DEP where residents are being impacted by PFAS. After that it is hoped that the intown water mains that have been put off can be addressed each year to limit the impact. Staffing needs will increase as the regulatory landscape changes and more and more sampling is required every year for Public Water Supplies and additional Environmental Specialist/Engineer position will be needed. Currently we carry in our payroll budget for an additional Utility person and one admin staff position. Over the next five years we would need to increase the payroll budget by \$150,000 to cover the Environmental Specialist/Engineering position. Discussion about succession planning with the consensus that moving up from within the organization is best filling in retired positions from existing staff. All staff are being cross trained in all aspects of what we do. Present staff are in the process of acquiring licenses and with the addition of an Engineer Position would gain the knowledge and skills necessary to fill the Director position.

- c. **Power Problem:** We lost power to Wyers Valley last week for two days. National Grid came and as this line was so old a new service was installed. We are in the final planning stages for the new generator at the state forest. There will be different requirements needed for either fuel used and 3 phase power. Even though diesel stresses the motor less we will need to use propane.
 - d. **Sewer Force Main:** The sewer work has resumed at Silver, Pleasant and Pine Streets. Given that we will continue to experience unplanned maintenance needs. We had service leaks at Milk Street, Main Street and Quaker Road.
7. **Discussion, amendment, and execution of any personnel or vendor contracts:** Thank you to the Commission for coming in and signing the new contracts for the OverSeas Cleaning, the four vendors for miscellaneous supplies and materials and the amendment for Barrett's for excavation services.
8. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** None.
9. **Adjournment:** Commissioner Eldridge made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Pearl, and unanimously voted to end the regular business meeting at 9:43 AM.

Approved: Allen B. Reinhard Date: 10/14/24

The meeting packet included 10/10/24 Agenda, reports, and information on the Mondo Board.