

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MINUTES OF

September 10, 2019

Buzzards Bay Water District 15 Wallace Ave. Buzzards Bay, MA 02532

MINUTES

Present:

Wendy Chapman, Chairperson
Joe Carrara, Commissioner
Robert Ethier, Commissioner
Judith Flynn, Commissioner
Jennifer Kelson, Treasurer
Steven Souza, Superintendent
Barry Woods, Admin. Support
Louise Warren – Billing Clerk
Wayne Perkins- Crew Chief
Peter Meier – resident
Gary Maloney – resident
Michael Rausch – Bourne Enterprise

The meeting was called to order by Wendy Chapman, Chairperson, at 4:00 pm.

Approval of meeting minutes dated 9/10/19

Judith Flynn made a MOTION to approve the minutes dated 9/10/19.

Joseph Carrara seconded that motion, and all in favor.

Approval of the September 2019 billing commitment

Judith Flynn made a MOTION to approve the September 2019 billing commitment.

Robert Ethier seconded that motion, and all in favor.

Discussion Regarding Mass Maritime and the District

Wendy Chapman led discussion regarding Mass Maritime and how the District is losing revenue by not being able to collect District tax from the Maritime properties. She stated that the Maritime thinks that they are paying enough money in their water rates. Barry Woods explained that they are paying the same as any other resident of Buzzards Bay. They pay a higher water rate because they fall into that high usage rate bracket. Gary Maloney questioned why Mass Maritime was not invited to the meeting? Wendy answered that we were only in the discussion process. She felt that it would be best to speak with the other commissioners in an open meeting before approaching them.

Wendy stated that we spend over 50k a year on electricity and maybe the Maritime would consider giving the District free electricity once they build their new windmill.

Robert Ethier and Judith Flynn suggested we put together a letter to Mass Maritime, and we invite them to a future meeting to discuss.

Wendy Chapman made a MOTION to send a letter to Mass Maritime Academy requesting a meeting. Judith Flynn seconded that motion, and all in favor.

Bridges and the District – Corp of Engineers/Federal Government and State

Wendy Chapman asked Steven Souza if he felt that the proposed new bridges would have an effect on the District. Steve responded that he does not feel that the new bridges will impact us. He said that right now, the Army Corp. is only at the feasibility stage of the project, but as it stands at the moment, there will be no construction done near our well heads. Steve stated that he will continue to stay in touch with them regarding progress.

Gary Malone suggested we reach out to the other districts and have a meeting regarding mutual aid and working together.

Surcharges and Future Replacement of Aging Pipes

Wendy Chapman stated that the District has never done surcharges but it may be something we need to consider in the future to help pay for the replacement of aging pipes. Wareham does include surcharges on their bills but they are also much bigger than the District. Barry Woods stated that we need to revisit the capital plan and come up with a plan of action on which streets are a priority. Old Bridge will cost at least 275k to construct. There was further discussion on areas of Plymouth that need replacement and improvements.

Joseph Carrara stated that we need to be careful not to overburden the taxpayer. Wendy Chapman instructed the staff to continue working on a plan, create a list of priorities, and research the feasibility of adding surcharges.

Vote to accept MGL and add to Annual Meeting Agenda

Wendy Chapman discussed how by adoption the MGL (Mass General Laws), the District could offer absentee voting. The MGL would regulate what could and could not be done at a meeting and give us better structure.

Bob Ethier made a MOTION to put as an article on the annual meeting to accept Mass General Law. Joseph Carrara seconded that motion, and all in favor.

Superintendents Report presented by Steven Souza, Superintendent

Treasurers Report presented by Jennifer Kelson, Treasurer

Any business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours None

Commissioners comments/select next meeting date

Next Meeting set for Tuesday, Nov. 19th @ 4:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Robert Ethier made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 pm. Judith Flynn seconded that motion, and all in favor.

Prepared by: Jennifer Kelson, Treasurer
Buzzards Bay Water District