

**Minutes of the Board of Water Commissioners
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2014**

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: DPS Facility – 16A Perry Way

Present:

Board: Commissioners Larry Kelley, Erford Fowler, Roger Jones
Staff: Tony Furnari, DPS Director; Dan Lynch, Distribution Manager;
Paul Colby, Superintendent Water Operations; Lisa Valcich,
Business Manager, Kathe Talkington, Administrative Office
Manager
Guest: Doug Gove, AECOM

1. Old Business

Upper Dam Project

Doug Gove, AECOM, reviewed the status of the Upper Dam project. Mr. Gove noted the following:

- Design is 90% completed
- Design is on schedule
- Newburyport and West Newbury permitting started
- Received certificate from MEPA
- Submitted application to Army Corp of Engineers
- Attending West Newbury ConCom week of March 24 2014
- Anticipate going out to bid in May
- Fish & Wildlife requested work not start until 7/1/14 due eel habitat
- 7/1/14 start date is doable
- Seeking approval and signing of Amendment #3 in the amount of \$19,000.00
- Amendment #3 included additional funding for design and bidding
- Arsenic discovered in the till about levels considered for re-use of common fill
- Arsenic result of being in “arsenic belt”
- Prepared demo permit for pump house – permit approved and issued by Newburyport Historical Society

Commissioner Fowler noted that the contingency shown of approximately 9% is incorrect. Commissioner Jones noted that 9.22% is approximately 9%. Commissioner Kelley asked what could be learned from this project relative to dredging the reservoir. Mr. Gove replied that notes will be taken throughout the project and dredging is an option but the reservoir has a lot of sediment and plant growth. He added there is also a high rate of nutrients in the reservoir and surrounding area and the issues needs to be addressed.

Commissioner Kelley asked if there are any ramifications on the Lower Artichoke with the Upper Dam project, is the dam high enough. Mr. Colby replied that the crest is approximately four feet and it would be easier to raise the lower dam. Raising the Lower Dam could effect the

West Newbury wellfields. Mr. Gove added it would be almost impossible to raise the dam due to current regulations.

Commissioner Jones asked if arsenic could get into the water from the till. Mr. Gove replied that AECOM staff feels no. Arsenic is in the sediment and is already exposed to water and oxidized. Mr. Gove noted that the research AECOM did on the arsenic issue caused the design costs to increase.

Mr. Gove noted that he has brought Amendment #3 to the Board for review, approval and signatures. The Scope of Work included environmental permits, advertising, services of Bid Docs Online, and design alternatives due to the arsenic.

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve Amendment #3 to the Agreement to Provide Final Design and Permitting Services for the Upper Artichoke Reservoir Dam and Gatehouse Improvements in the amount of \$19,000.00

Vote: 3 yes

2. Customer Issues

146 Northern Blvd

Kathe Talkington reviewed Elaine Byrne's requests for an additional abatement of charges on her January 2013 water/sewer bill. The initial bill was abatement according to policy and Ms. Byrne attended the May 22, 2013 Commission meeting to dispute the amount abated. Commissioner Kelley tabled a decision until the matter could be discussed with Commissioner Tomasz.

Ms. Talkington noted that Commissioner Tomasz reviewed the request and asked that the request be reviewed by the Board. The Board agreed to stand with the original abatement.

65 Parker St

Kathe Talkington reviewed Ralph Castagna request that a credit of \$1,950.00 be issued to account 8008278. Mr. Castagna's abatement request notes that this account is billed for four (4) fire suppression systems annual charges and that there are three (3) systems. Mr. Castagna asked that the Board approve the abatement for the years 2003 to present.

Ms. Valcich notes that the Fire Department lists 3 fire suppression systems at that address. Commissioner Kelley request staff walk through and observes the number of fire suppression systems.

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commission Fowler to abate one-half of the charges (\$975.00) pending Water Division staff confirmation of the number of fire suppression systems at the property.

Vote: 3 yes

3. Operations

Paul Colby noted that he requested the final DEP inspection of the water treatment plant improvements. Mr. Colby added punch list items include the following:

- complete fencing

- top coat paving inside gate
- flocc shaft

Commissioner Kelley asked if there were any thoughts on additional security. Mr. Colby replied that everything within the gate is secure.

4. Construction Report

Mr. Lynch reviewed for the Board a request from Matthew and Lisa Moulis to extend the water service pipe from the residence at 2 77th St (parcel 1) to the shed at 6 77th St (parcel 2) for the installing of a half bath (sink and toilet). The shed shall not be used for dwelling purposes. Mr. Lynch asked the Board to approve extending the water service pipe as stated in a *Declaration and Grant Restriction* which the owner will file with the Registry of Deeds. Mr. Lynch added that Kopelman & Paige has reviewed the document.

Commissioner Kelley made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to
Vote: 3 yes

Mr. Lynch noted the following:

- staff will assist with maintaining the road at the Artichoke Dam
- finishing work on Highland Ave is scheduled for April
- working on FY15 budget

Mr. Lynch updated the Board on the leak at the Plum Island Bridge that was discussed at February 19 2014 meeting. Mr. Lynch noted that further investigating revealed that specialized fittings need replacement. Due to the location, there is little space for the work and tides are a factor. Mr. Lynch has been in contact with DEP and Scott Worrel +, DEP, is aware of the issue. Bypass piping at the river crossing is being considered.

5. Financials

Lisa Valcich noted the FY14 financials indicate 74% of the budget spent and revenues received are 71%. Ms. Valcich noted that staff are working on the FY15 budgets.

Commissioner Kelley asked if the Board wanted to look at possibly using the old sand pits for solar field.

6. New Business

Nothing to report.

7. Tabled Items

Kathe Talkington asked the Commissions and staff to forward any edits or comments to her so that the Rules and Regulations can be finalized.

8. Director's Report

Mr. Furnari noted that he is working on the City's Master Plan and asked that the Board bring any feedback and comments to the April 16 meeting.

Mr. Furnari noted there is a meeting with the architects for the DPS admin building scheduled for next week and thanked staff for their help on the FY15 Budgets.

9. Minutes

Commissioner Fowler asked if there was any answer from the Auditor on his question concerning the amount of undesignated fund balance. Mr. Furnari replied that an answer is being prepared. Mr. Furnari noted that the DOR audit did not note any issue with the ufb.

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fowler to approve the February 19, 2014 minutes with the meeting correction.

Vote: 3 yes

10. Bills Payable

Commissioner Fowler made a motion seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the March 1 and 15 2014 bills payable and February 26 2014 bills payable as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

11. Commissioners' Comments

Commissioner Fowler requested the full explanation of the surplus remain on the agenda until Board receives response from Auditor.

Next meetings:

Wednesday April 16, 2014 @ 5:30 pm – 16A Perry Way

Wednesday May 21, 2014 @ 5:30 pm – 16A Perry Way

Wednesday June 18, 2014 @ 5:30 pm – 16A Perry Way

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by: