

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 28, 2019

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at the 438 Granby Road Office on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. William L. Schenker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Chairman	William L. Schenker
Clerk	R. Scott Williams
Associate Member	Stephanie K. Wall
Superintendent	Jeffrey A. Cyr
Office Manager	Jennifer L. Fernandes

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS: The weekly warrants were signed by all Board Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: William L. Schenker made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, May 9, May 16 and May 21, 2019. This motion was seconded by R. Scott Williams.  
Motion Carried

HEALTH INSURANCE REVIEW  
AND DISCUSSION: William L. Schenker opened up the discussion by noting the Prudential Committee had changed the by-laws on 3/28/2019 (See Note 1) to no longer offering Health Insurance for elected Board members of the District. William Schenker noted that this was further investigated by our Attorney Mark Beauregard and he forwarded a letter on 4/30/2019 (See Note 2). Mr. Schenker noted that Mr. Beauregard could not be here today due to a family illness. William Schenker added that he was grandfathered into receiving health benefits and has been a Commissioner for past 30 years. William L. Schenker acknowledged there were several residents and members that want to speak about the health insurance and he wanted everyone to be heard so he offered everyone 5 minutes to speak their peace. Ed Wall presented to the Board a 41 page document (See Note 3). Ed Wall stated he is speaking on behalf of his wife Stephanie Wall and feels as though she should receive health insurance through the District and feels she is being treated unfairly. Ed Wall spoke about the fact that we are in a self-regulated and self-funded health plan and we are breaking the law by not allowing the newly elected Commissioners to receive Health Insurance. Ed Wall also referenced the MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act), it is an employer fair pay act stating that no member of the opposite sex may be paid a different wage for a comparable job; it defines wages to include health benefits. Ed Wall noted that he feels as though the new commissioners, Stephanie Wall and R. Scott Williams are all alone on an island by themselves with no support from anyone. R. Scott Williams read a statement (See Note 4) stating the By-laws do not allow either Board to make this significant of change to the benefits of the elected officials. R. Scott also noted that he felt all members of the Water Commission should be treated equally and the by-laws do not give the Prudential Committee authority over the Water Commission and should not have made this

policy without including the Water Board. R. Scott then spoke about nepotism and felt as though the Prudential Board was playing favorites by allowing some members of the Boards insurance and not others. R. Scott stated what was done was terrible to the new Board members. Resident Mitchel Malinowski spoke and said he never even knew Board members could receive health benefits and maybe this was the best kept secret and this fact should have been advertised as such. William Schenker noted that this benefit has been offered since he became a commissioner and noted that in 1955 the District voters voted to give to provide Health Insurance to certain persons of the District. The discussion became heated between Mr. Malinowski and Mr. Wall and William Schenker told both men this is not the time or place to argue. William Schenker then stated he has spoken to Joe Shea from the Hampshire County Insurance Trust, who told him to try to resolve the issue in house. Mr. Schenker then stated that things may change that we have to present all this information to the Prudential Board and hopefully we can all work things out. Ed Wall stated he and Stephanie and R. Scott have put in many hours into researching this issue and is frustrated and would like to matter resolved within the 48 hours or they will seek legal action. R. Scott Williams stated he had previously spoken to former Prudential Chair, Mike Wozniak and asked to be heard at a Prudential meeting. Mr. Wozniak stated he would not recognize R. Scott at any meeting and told R. Scott the change is done.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING VACANCY

ON MAINTENANCE CREW: Jeff Cyr reminded the Board that Ronald Motyka just retired on May 17<sup>th</sup> and normally the Department would try to fill the Maintenance position right away. Jeff noted that he would like to try and wait to fill the position right away to see how the crew can manage the workload. Jeff noted he had a healthy discussion with the remaining crew and they are all willing to see how things go for the next few months. Stephanie Wall asked how the Maintenance crew feels about waiting to fill the position. Jeff noted that they are willing to give it a go and see how it is with one less person. The Foreman, Jeff Levreault will have to read meters and Jeff Cyr will pick up any additional work or appointment during the meter reading time. The Board agreed with Jeff's recommendation and will revisit the situation in the early Fall to see how things are going.

#### DISCUSSION REGARDING RADIOS FOR SCADA SYSTEM:

Jeff Cyr informed the Board that the current company that supports our radio's for the SCADA system is going out of business and sent a letter (See Note 5). The company, TeleDesign is closing but will be accepting buy outs for their product till June 7<sup>th</sup> and will be offering website and email operations through 2019. Jeff suggested as a Department we start planning how we will replace these panels for the SCADA system now because if all the panels failed it could cost \$30,000 – 40,000 to replace them all. Jeff stated that Ron Smith from Tighe and Bond suggested that we prepare ahead and a Viper brand Radio will be the replacement.

#### LEAK DETECTION PROPOSALS AND AWARD:

Jeff informed the Board that we are required by the MWRA to do yearly leak detection on our water system. They approved us doing half of the water pipes (42 miles) per year to be in compliance with their leak detection requirement. Jeff

received 2 proposals for the work. One proposal is from Liston Utility Services (See Note 6) at a cost of \$163/per mile and Prowler Water Conservation Systems (See Note 7) at \$105/per mile or total survey at \$4,200. R. Scott Williams made a motion to accept the proposal from Prowler Water Conservation Systems. This motion was seconded by Stephanie K. Wall. Motion Carried

## DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED

**WATER MAIN IN GRANBY:** Jeff Cyr updated the Board that he attended a meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup> with Mass. State Representative Dan Carey and Granby Town Administrator, Chris Martin regarding extending our water line on Granby Rd down into 5 corners in Granby. Jeff presented the Board plans put together by Chappell Engineering for the town of Granby to extend our water line down Granby Road, and a second phase down Pleasant Street to Morgan/East Street. Jeff noted they have not contacted the MWRA to ask if they could be a part of the MWRA and said most times there is an entry fee that could be a few million dollars. Jeff emailed Beth Card who is the Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs at the MWRA to see if we are allowed to even entertain the plan and if we need permission from the rest of the CVA (Chicopee Valley Aqueduct) communities (Wilbraham & Chicopee). Stephanie K. Wall asked how many additional services this would add if they were eventually approved. Jeff noted that he doesn't have an exact figure but thought that few hundred could be added to our system. R. Scott Williams asked how the additional services would affect what we are allowed daily from the MWRA. Jeff responded that it would most likely not affect us as we are allowed 3 million gallons daily and we average about 800,000 gallons daily and our highest day in 2018 was approximately 2.2 million in the summer. Jeff informed the Granby Select board and Chris Martin, Town Administrator, will be attending our meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> at our office. Jeff is hopeful he will have a lot of answers to the questions currently.

## LEAD & COPPER SAMPLES IN JUNE:

Jeff Cyr notified the Board that we will be performing our required Lead & Copper samples in the beginning of June. There are 30 homes and 2 Day Care facilities that will take samples. Jeff will keep the Board updated when we receive results from the samples.

## RECENT WATER LEAK:

Jeff Cyr informed the Board that we recently had a leak on Summit Street on the 8" main. Jeff showed the Board pictures of the pipe that was removed, one side had a hole in it and the other was worn like another hole was forming. Jeff noted that this water main is only 14 years old and the life expectancy of the pipe is normally 80 to 100 years. Jeff reached out to our supplier and they suggested looking to the Electric Light as it may be leaking electricity form a surrounding home and trying to find a ground at the pipe. Jeff will contact Electric Light to follow up on this but thought that it could also be a defective pipe. Jeff will keep the Board updated.

## UPCOMING WATER MAIN

REPLACEMENT STREETS: Jeff Cyr updated the Board that he met with Casandra LA Rochelle and Tony DeCruz from Tighe and Bond last week to discussed and get plans to transfer customers that are on the Granby Road 4” water main to put them on the 10” main that is on the opposite side of the street. Jeff noted that the Maintenance crew will replace the water main on Susan Avenue after the Granby Road project is completed. Jeff noted that because we are utilizing money from the zero percent loans we received for the Newton Street water main replacement we are required by the MWRA to engage an engineering plan before moving forward with the projects. The total cost for engineering will be approximately \$22,000.00.

NEW DISTRICT WEBSITE: R. Scott Williams inquired about who manages our website and email. Jeff Cyr informed the Board that Civic Plus is redoing the new website and will be finished within the next few weeks. Jeff noted that he and the Chief Bob Authier just approved the main page. Jeff will keep the Board updated and will address the email issue once a new treasurer/clerk is in place.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: R. Scott Williams made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Stephanie K. Wall  
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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R. Scott Williams, Clerk