

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at the 438 Granby Road Office on Monday, September 15, 2025. Chair Pauline McClafin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:	Chair	Pauline McClafin
	Clerk	Chuck Scott
	Superintendent	Jeffrey Cyr
	Office Manager	Jennifer Fernandes
	Treasurer/Clerk	Kari Scytkowski
	Resident	Al Zuffoletti
	Resident	Mitch Malinowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chuck Scott was not at the July 14th Board meeting and would like to abstain from approving the minutes until William Schenker can be present in a meeting to approve.

SIGNING OF WARRANTS & MONTHLY ANALYSIS: The Warrants were signed by Board members. Jennifer Fernandes presented the Board with the July and August monthly analysis showing a collection in July of \$387,196.15 and \$87,276.77 in August, leaving an outstanding balance to collect of \$17,260.69.

NEW BUSINESS:

ALVORD ST. TANK EXTERIOR
PAINTING PRESENTATION
BY TIGHE AND BOND:

Tony DaCruz from Tighe and Bond presented the Board options and updates to painting the Alvord Street tank. (See Note 1) The paint is 21 years old and the life on most paint is 15-20 years, so he is recommending repainting the tank in the next couple of years. Tony said there is now a process called overcoating instead of the full blast painting. The overcoating can be done if the current tank paint system is still in good condition. It involves cleaning and removing contaminants coat then applying new topcoats. Tony asked 3 paint vendors & 3 paint contractors to come out to inspect the paint to see if it is viable for overcoating. Tony said we are a great candidate for overcoating and recommends we consider it, as it economical and lasts almost as long as the full blast process. Tony said 10 years ago the overcoating process was not available and is a great option as the paint lasts 15 – 20 years compared to the full blast paint lasting 20 – 25 years. The costs are 2.3 million to do overcoating and 3.7 million to do the full blast process. The tank does have to be drained, tented and tied down. It is best to paint it in the off season as we will be using just one tank water supply. Jeff Cyr said we are fortunate to have a zero percent 2.5 million loan available to us from the MWRA. Tony stated if we are planning to do the project next fall then we should go out to bid by February 2026 as companies are setting their schedules for the year. The Board agreed that overcoating would be the best option for this project. Jeff will keep the Board updated as things progress.

NEW WEBSITE DISCUSSION: Jeff Cyr informed the Board that our website designed and managed by Civic Plus was going to increase to \$6000 a year. Kari Scytkowski, Tom Stark and Jeff Cyr met to discuss options and interview new website companies. The District has decided to go with Streamline out of California as they are one of the companies that are ADA-Compliant and are very user friendly. Streamline also offers SSL domains for the Fire Dept. to have an online payment option for various fees. The website was launched earlier than anticipated but is up and running. The Water Department has also changed their SSL certificate for online payment domain from Go Daddy to UMS, who is the water billing company for less money and easier renewals.

DISCUSSION REGARDING
HEALTH INSURANCE
INCREASE EFFECTIVE
OCTOBER 1, 2025:

Pauline McClafin mentioned that Health Insurance for the District through Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) will be increasing an additional 20% as of October 1st due to the overuse of the GLP1 drugs and higher claims. HCGIT had over 20 million in claims within the last year. The Trust is looking at different options and so are some of the other 72 Communities that are in the Trust. Kari Scytkowski presented a spreadsheet showing the costs and premiums. (See Note 2) She also e-mailed District employees/retirees about the increase and information to research the State health insurance Group Insurance Commission (GIC), but the plans are even more expensive and have a deductible before having coverage. Jeff Cyr said at some point the District will have to have a Special Meeting for the additional costs.

MOU WITH THE TOWN OF
SOUTH HADLEY, SHELD,
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1,
FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2:

Jeff Cyr informed the Board that the Town has put out a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for all Department Heads in the Town to get together and share their intentions and goals and how we can all work together to help each other out and come up with cost-saving solutions. Chuck Scott made a motion to make Jeff Cyr the designee for the Water Department. This motion was seconded by Pauline McClafin. Motion Carried

CENTRAL AVENUE
WATER MAIN UPDATE:

Jeff Cyr informed the Board that Central Avenue water main project is complete, and the total cost was \$50,548.72 not including labor of our crew. The costs on the open market would have been approximately \$220,000. Our Water Main account cannot support another project this fall so another water main project will have to wait until next fiscal year. Pauline McClafin wanted to add that a customer from 3 Central Avenue wrote in to say even though the water rates have increased it is still the best deal in town.

SAMPLE STATION ON
NEW LUDLOW RD.:

Jeff notified the Board that one of our sample sites at 100 New Ludlow Rd., had access issues for sampling. We experienced positive coliform samples from the outside tap. Jeff requested permission from DEP to change this sample site to 123 New Ludlow Rd. where we installed a sample station. The maintenance crew built a concrete pad around it, and it feeds off the water main instead of building plumbing and is frost free.

CHLORINATION SYSTEM
AT ALVORD ST. TANK:

Jeff Cyr informed the Board that our Alvord Street tank chlorination system pump had priming issues therefore it wasn't giving off consistent chlorine in the tank during the warmer summer months and would sometimes give us a poor chlorine residual. Jeff and the crew installed a new head on the pump to work more efficiently so the chlorine is pumped with a consistent flow.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Chuck Scott made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Pauline McClafin
Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.