

Nantucket Water Commission  
Minutes of Thursday, March 30, 2021

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, March 30, 2021 in the open-door garage at the Wannacomet Water Company, 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

*Commissioners present:* Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Nonie Slavitz and Nelson Eldridge were present. Commissioners absent: None. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, Denese Allen - Business Manager, Linda Roberts – Projects Coordinator. Public: Curtis Barns arrived prior to the start of the meeting and Brian Bushard from the Inquirer and Mirror arrived at 9:05 AM.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Reinhard at 9:00 AM.
1. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Commissioners accepted the agenda as printed by unanimous consent.
2. **Public Comment:** Mr. Barnes stated he came to find out about the work being done at North Liberty Street. He has confirmed with the Town Manager that she gave approval of the Commissions to hold an in-person meeting although he finds it to be inconsistent with other government meetings using zoom.
3. **Review of Minutes September 4, 2020 and December 21, 2020** – After review of the meeting minutes from September 4 and December 21, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Slavitz and unanimously voted to approve the minutes as presented.
4. **Production and Billing Report:** Director Willett reported that the sewer department has a computer with the ability to view customer billing and use which assists in answering billing questions. Their department will be moving to a three or four tier-based billing system. Mr. Willett has finalized the annual report for the DEP. The total unaccounted water is 5.64%. Anything under ten percent is unreportable to DEP. Unaccounted water includes water leakage from old pipes, pool fills and leaks in service lines. The master meters can have 2% error either way. Penalties had been lifted from March to July at the start of COVID. Most customers are paying on time. Billing is up 9%, production is up 13 %. Surveyors, masons and real estate agents are predicting a busy summer with work being scheduled out for months in advance and no rentals available.
5. **Directors review and updates:**
  - a. **Merger:** After five years the merger of Siasconset Water and Nantucket Water has been approved by the State. The new board will be a five-person commission. Nantucket Water Commissioner Reinhard and Siasconset Commissioner Benchley have taken papers out for reelection for the three-year seats. Siasconset Commissioner Pearl is seeking reelection for the two-year seat. Mr. Barnes asked if the board will remain an elected or appointed board and he was interested in serving on the Commission. Chairman Reinhard answered that it will be an elected Commission and the deadline for applications to be returned to the Town Clerk is

April 27, 2021. The Finance Director is merging the two separate budgets into one. Water company union members will negotiate with the Town and not the Commissioners. Contracts will continue to be approved with the Water Commission. The DEP will keep the public water supplies separated as they are now for Siasconset and Wannacomet Water

**b. Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, June 5, 2021:** Mr. Willett reminded those present of the up-coming Annual Town Meeting to be held outside under a tent. Mr. Willett reviewed Ms. Perry's citizen article and the DEP's requirements for PFAS testing and reporting. DEP is requiring PFAS testing of wells next quarter. While testing was not required before next quarter, Wannacomet and Sconset was proactive in testing wells for PFAS. This will be beneficial if we do get a positive result. Mr. Willett may contact Commissioners to find out their availability to meet before town meeting.

**c. Solar power at the Wannacomet Water Company:** Mr. Willett has spent a great deal of time meeting with representatives from the Nantucket Land Council, Monomoy home owners and other groups opposing the solar power at the proposed site. He has looked at alternative locations but has not been able to find anything else that would work.

**d. North Liberty:** Mr. Willett noted that the water and sewer departments have been working closely together and the project will be coming in under budget. The upper part of North Liberty toward Cliff road never had a top coat. The upper part of North Liberty toward Cliff road never had a top coat. Wherever road surfaces were too thin the surfaces have been pulverized from curb to curb for resurfacing. All connections have been made and the water lines have been pressure tested. The Public Works Department is working on storm water designs for improved drainage. The paving contractor will be returning in two to three weeks. Mr. Barnes expressed concerns about the amount of time it has taken.

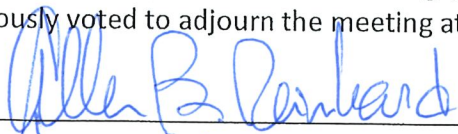
**e. Airport PFAS Project:** Wannacomet Water will continue to provide assistance for the Airport. The Airport has been testing homes in the surrounding areas and providing bottled water to those residents. Plans change whenever they receive additional sampling results. In addition to Madequecham, areas now include Nobadeer Way, Evergreen Way, Millers Lane, Okorwaw and Monohansett Road to Skyline Drive looping into the Richmond Development. Mr. Willett provided information about PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid). Mr. Willett and Mr. West took measurements to run lines across the runway to Madequecham. The Airport continues to test homes in the airport area and it will be difficult to determine how far into the neighboring properties they will need to go.

Mr. Willett shared news that two of the utility staff have been taking on line training classes through New England Water Association. The interaction is not quite the same for interactive questions. They will be finishing the classes in May and will be able to test soon after. Housing issues have come up for some of the Wannacomet staff recently. Mr. Willett has notified the tenant of the Wannacomet house that it may be needed for water company staff. Mr. Willett is working with the Town Manager and the housing group to find solutions, but it is likely that we will need to build additional housing for staff. Housing is the biggest challenge for employees and its more difficult with rental and building costs increasing. Mr. Barnes stated he could build a home on Nantucket at \$300 per square foot all in. Mr. Willett

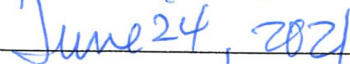
continues with replacement of pump 12 and the new well source on Land Bank property off Milestone Road. This was approved at town meeting a couple of years ago may and start this year.

6. **Commissioner's comments and reserved for unforeseen items for discussion by the Chair:** None.
7. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Slavitz and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 AM.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Meeting packet included 03/30/21 Agenda and the minutes from 09/04/20 and 12/21/20.