

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Thursday, April 14, 2022

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 in the conference room, at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Nonie Slavitz, Nelson Eldridge, Rob Benchley and Curtis Barnes were present. *Absent:* none. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director, Shelby Campbell - Business Manager and Linda Roberts – Projects Coordinator. Public: None.

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Reinhard at 8:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Commissioner Eldridge motioned, and Commissioner Barnes seconded the agenda was unanimously accepted.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Review of Minutes from March 10, 2022** – Motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously approved the April 14, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.
5. **Production and Billing and Rainfall Reports:** Director Willett reported the Siasconset use was up attributing it to year-round population growth. The Federal census is under reported and DEP uses that for our population. The Nantucket Data Platform information collected shows us much higher and at least 55,000 in July and August. We are using 12,423 in the winter and 27,703 for the summer population. Billing is going well, and we are cross training. Rainfall is up over last year. The monitoring well on Russell's Way is used to monitor drought conditions. We have had less people being turned off for nonpayment and staff are providing payment plans.
6. **Directors review and updates:**
 - a. **Annual Reports Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection:** Director Willett is submitting the Annual reports to Mass DEP. Director Willett went over the details required for the report including documentation of the various services, new connections/extensions, withdrawal of water, unaccounted calculations, daily averages, backflow testing and pertinent information the DEP tracks for the annual reports.
 - b. **North Liberty:** The work was severely held up due to storm water work. Director Willett is having Robert B Our fix the storm drains and clean up work, to finish the road.
 - c. **West of Airport Water Mains:** Director Willett continues to work with the Airport and the contractor to supply services in the Madequecham, Skyline Drive and airport areas impacted by PFAS. 10,000 feet of pipe and hydrants are being placed going to Madequecham Road. Town meeting will begin May 2 and if voters approve the article for this funding it will be put on the ballot for May 10th. If all of this passes the special grant being applied for by CDM Smith on behalf of the Town will bring in funding for

Seven Million Dollars. This would be a zero percent interest loan/grant which requires matching funds.

- d. **Supply Chain - Budget:** Discussion about the escalating costs for labor, supplies and materials and the difficulty in obtaining materials we need for hydrants or parts, water meters, pipe and parts took place. Given this shortage, we have insufficient inventory to sell any meters that customers use for measuring irrigation or sewer-well water.
- e. **New Well Project:** The drilling rig crew are returning next week. There will be an 8x24 pump test well. After the drilling and pump testing will be completed, Director Willett will submit to DEP for new source approval. This three to five-year project will cost Three Million Dollars. Commissioner Slavitz commended the Director on being proactive. The Director is reviewing rates for different size taps and for fire services.

Director Willett discussed the options for mitigation of scrub oak for the Solar Project and if a fee is required that it be used for Nantucket.

The commission was pleased to be able to provide the residence at 43 Polpis Road to be leased to Wannacomet staff. Commissioners would like to see the Director explore use of retained earnings to buy or build additional housing for Wannacomet staff. Commissioner Slavitz suggested this be brought forward for the next town meeting and if possible a special town meeting in the fall.

- 7. **Execution of Contracts of Amendments if any pending:** Motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge to renew the lease with the FAA. The motion was passed with all voting in favor except for Commissioner Slavitz who abstained.
- 8. **Commissioner's comments and reserved for unforeseen items for discussion by the Chair:** The commission was pleased to be able to provide the residence at 43 Polpis Road to be leased to Wannacomet staff. Commissioners would like to see the Director explore use of retained earnings to buy or build additional housing for Wannacomet staff. Commissioner Slavitz suggested this be brought forward for the next town meeting and if possible a special town meeting in the fall. Commissioner Eldridge discussed the need to have landscaping cleared around hydrants. Director Willett will be reviewing staff wages for the next meeting. Commissioner Slavitz discussed the need to provide an increase to keep up with Nantucket's cost of living. She noted the Social Security Administrations 5.9% cost-of-living increase and that a 1.5% increase was not sufficient. Consensus was to have the budget and the wages increased as Director Willett has originally submitted.
- 9. **Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Benchley and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 AM.

Approved: _____

Date: _____

Meeting packet included 4/14/22 Agenda, water production billing and rainfall reports.