

Nantucket Water Commission  
Minutes of Thursday, June 24, 2021

A meeting of the Nantucket Water Commission was held on Thursday, June 24, 2021 in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company, 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

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

1. **Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Reinhard at 8:01 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Commissioners accepted the agenda as printed by unanimous consent.
3. **Public Comment:** None.
4. **Review of Minutes March 30, 2021, May 20, 2021 and Executive Session from May 20, 2021** – After review of the meeting minutes for March 30, May 20 and May 20 executive Session Minutes, a Motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Slavitz and voted to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Barnes abstained.

**Election of Officers:** Commissioner Barnes asked about election of officers. Typically, the two boards have done this in July. After discussion regarding the newly combined commission, Commissioner Barnes nominated Allen Reinhard as chair and Commissioner Eldridge nominated Commissioner Slavitz as vice-chair. The motions were seconded with Commissioner Slavitz abstaining and all other commissioners voting affirmatively.

5. **Production and Billing Report:** Director Willett reported that overall finances and production are up. We are close to One Million Dollars in water sales for this year. This is the busiest June we have seen. Orders for water meters are backordered as the chip in the meter is not available. We are networking with the Cape and Martha's Vineyard to share inventory if needed. Director Willett is working with this group on all other water issues including PFAS. Mr. Willett explained how drought is monitored including the monitoring well we use off Russell's Way.
6. **Directors review and updates:**
  - a. **Water Company Goals:** Director Willett reviewed the goals. Protection and study of the aquifer and anticipating impacts such as the extensions due to PFAS testing. Director Willett would like to have the Dr. Person who studied the acquihire with the University of Mass and the Woods Hole Institute team return to analyze Nantucket during peak times and with future impacts. Dr. Person is busy and in great demand, but he may be willing to move us up on his list. The drill riggers were here for Wyers Valley and North Pasture and will be returning to do pump testing. Training and education for our staff is on-going. Two of the utility staff just

completed their on-line training classes through New England Water Association. Director Willett is also an instructor for the New England Water Association. They are resuming in person classes. Procurement certification classes and other on-line opportunities have been done by Water Company staff during COVID. We hope to continue to take advantage of on line classes and move data to a cloud platform in the near future. The utility staff have all submitted letters to their union and the Town's Human Resources Department to be removed from union dues and membership. They will submit an agreement with the commission.

**b. Annual Town Meeting Recap:** Low turnout for a long Saturday under the tent with most people leaving early. Next year the meeting will be inside and there is talk of having it in May and one this fall.

**c. Solar power at the Wannacomet Water Company:** Mr. Willett continues to address concerns from representatives from the Nantucket Land Council, Monomoy home owners and other groups opposing the solar power at the proposed site.

**d. North Liberty:** The water and sewer departments have been working closely together and the Public Works Department is returning to work on drainage. The patching was done by the contractor as a temporary measure until the asphalt contractor can get there.

**e. Airport PFAS Project:** Wannacomet Water continues to provide assistance for the Airport. The Airport has continued with testing homes in the surrounding areas and providing bottled water to those residents. The Airport will be doing additional lines to a portion of Skyline Drive for an estimated \$1.1 Million and Madequecham across their land which is estimated at \$2.2 Million. Estimated costs to extend to Monohansett is \$1.2 Million, Orkawaw to Skyline is estimated at \$492,000. Webster Road is estimated at \$250,000 and Nobadeer Way is estimated at \$250,000. Mr. Willett provided information about PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid). CDM Smith is consulting and sampling the areas it is determine how far into the neighboring properties they will need to go.

**f. Review of annual fire fees, cross connection fees and inspection of well fees:** Wannacomet needs to increase cross connection fees and well inspection fees to cover our costs. Director Willett recommended increasing the cross connection inspection fees from \$150 to \$180 each and a well disconnection inspection to \$40 per each visit. Commissioner Eldridge made the motion to charge \$180 for cross connection inspections and \$40 for well inspections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnes and approved all voting affirmatively with the exception of Commissioner Slavitz who abstained.

**g. Five to Ten Year Plan:** Director Willett provided the updated FY2019 to FYU2029 Capital Improvement Plan. We will continue to maintain what we have and refocus on old lines that we need to replace. The Nantucket Fire Department is working with us on color coding of hydrants caps. The caps are used to identify flow in gallons per minute. The annual fire service fees have been the same for decades and initially Director Willett was going to recommend a 4% increase, however he would like to research this further.

Commissioner Reinhard thanked Director Willett for his excellent presentations and outlining goals and plans to the Commission.

7. **Execution of Contracts of Amendments if any pending:** None pending. Director Willett is authorized to sign all contacts under \$50,000. Contract over that threshold go before the commission for signature.

8. **Commissioner's comments and reserved for unforeseen items for discussion by the Chair:** None.
9. **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 10:25 AM.

Approved: Allen B. Reinhard

Date: July 8, 2021

Meeting packet included 06/24/21 Agenda, the minutes from 03/30/21, 5/20/21 and executive session minutes from 5/20/21; water production billing and rainfall reports; five to ten-year plan.