

**Present:**

Lee M. Azinheira, Chairman  
Mark S. Nunes, Clerk

Manuel Branco, Vice Chairman  
David T. Hickox, Director

Carlos Cardoso, WPC Plant Manager          Steven Sullivan, Superintendent Water & Sewer Division  
Paul Pacheco, Superintendent Services & Infrastructure  
David G. Cressman, Executive Administrator

The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve and accept the warrants for the bills payable for the period ending November 16, 2010. So voted.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve and accept the payrolls for the weeks ending October 22, 29, November 5, and 12, 2010. So voted.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve and accept the meeting minutes of October 21, 2010. So voted.**

**APPOINTMENT**

**Meeting with Mr. Frank Kochan of 700 Russells Mills Road – discussion on water quality**

The Chairman recognized Mr. Frank Kochan.

Mr. Kochan introduced himself. He stated that he was present in follow up to his letter dated October 31. He asked if the meeting minutes could be emailed to him. Mr. Kochan presented the Board members with a copy of a letter dated November 15, 2010. The Board members took the opportunity to read the letter before continuing a dialogue.

Mr. Nunes asked why Mr. Kochan was experiencing the same type of problem with water quality that he had during Mr. David Bernier's tenure with the Department. Mr. Azinheira commented that any construction activity to the system in an isolated area could cause a situation like the one they were discussing. Mr. Kochan asked if the Town was willing to accept that he would be reimbursed every time the problem occurs. Mr. Nunes replied that they would try to ratify the problem.

Mr. Kochan presented the Board with samples of the clothes he claimed were stained by municipal water. He noted that the laundry was washed two to three times. He also presented the Board with a water sample that was taken at his residence on October 31, and invited them to drink from the sample. Mr. Azinheira agreed that once the stain is set it could not be removed from clothing. Mr. Kochan presented the Board members with pictures of the standing water in his toilet bowl. Mr. Branco informed Mr. Kochan that these types of problems occur in a system from time to time with flow issues. He used the example of someone opening a hydrant without permission. He added that they could not guarantee that this type of issue would not happen again but they could settle this particular situation by compensating through insurance for damages caused by the water. Mr. Kochan said he would like a point of contact for reimbursement.

Mr. Hickox explained that there were a few things happening at the 687 Chase Road plant that have been documented and the Department is currently addressing. One of the items was due to a chemical vendor change in July. The same chemical was used prior to that without incident. This year

the chemical, sodium hydroxide, started to jell bringing the pH levels down. As a result, the iron manganese is stripped from the deposits on the pipes and the system is shocked. The Department is currently working with an ongoing sensitive issue with chlorine residual levels that must leave that plant at a high level to distribute throughout the system, which can cause water quality issue. The third issue that is being addressed is hydraulic. Those three problems have been identified and the plant was shutdown on October 31, so they could be addressed. The facility will be back on line when the Department feels confident that the situation is resolved.

Mr. Kochan asked why the same thing happened a few years prior when Mr. Bernier was Superintendent. Mr. Hickox said he could not speak to what happened at that time but it could have been a similar situation. Mr. Nunes asked Mr. Kochan if he has experienced water quality issues since October 31. Mr. Kochan replied in the negative. Mr. Sullivan commented that the area was flushed immediately and they have not experienced any problems since that time. Mr. Azinheria informed Mr. Kochan that the Department is working to get all of the situations under control but they could not realistically guarantee that a similar incident would never happen again.

Mr. Kochan asked who would be the contact for reimbursement. The Board replied that the point for contact is the Superintendent of Water & Sewer, Steven Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan informed Mr. Kochan that he should submit an itemized bill. Mr. Kochan said he would be satisfied with reimbursement and hoped that it would not happen again.

Mr. Nunes asked if the fire districts provide a schedule to the Department when they use water for exercise purposes. Mr. Sullivan replied that he has tried to get a schedule to no avail. Mr. Nunes said he would like to see that coordinated.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on Water Quality**

#### **Agreement between the Town of Dartmouth and AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for Professional Services: Lead and Copper Compliance Advisory**

Mr. Hickox presented the Board members with the contract agreement for lead and copper compliance. He briefly explained the new lead and copper rule.

Mr. Hickox noted that the Water & Sewer Division budgets have a line item for emergency expenditures. With the Board's approval, they would like to expend \$25,000 from the line item to procure six pumps, two tanks, and materials to address water quality issues at the 687 Chase Road water treatment plant.

**A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to expend \$25,000 from the Water Division budget emergency line item to procure pumps, tanks and materials for the 687 Chase Road water treatment plant. So voted.**

### **Discussion on Birchfield Farm Sewer Betterment**

Mr. Hickox reviewed his memorandum to the Board. It was noted that after the Bayview Sewer Expansion Project was completed the Department was petitioned to install sewer at Birchfield Farm. The Board of Public Works had previously voted that any future sewer connection to the Bayview sewer line would be assessed a betterment equal to or greater than what was assessed to the property owners during the original project.

The Board discussed how the additional revenues assessed to offset the pump station would be re-purposed. Mr. Nunes said he personally would like to pay down the debt. Mr. Azinheira said it might be more prudent to not pay down old debt but rather use it to not incur new debt. Mr. Cressman

said he needed more information on how the borrowing was set up. Mr. Hickox replied that he would schedule a meeting with the Director of Budget and Finance to discuss the details.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Request for abatement – PAYT account/43 Chestnut Street**

Ms. DeFranco informed the Board that she spoke to the resident about the request for abatement that was received after the deadline and for a previous fiscal year. The Board members agreed that they would not agree to a credit for a previous fiscal year and would only address the current fiscal year. The Board members also agreed if the resident was willing to submit an affidavit attesting that the property has been vacant since July 1, 2010, and will remain vacant through June 30, 2011, they would consider abating the 2011 base rate. The resident will be notified in writing of such.

### **Correspondence from Ms. Lisa Lourenco of One Creek Road regarding water bill**

Mr. Sullivan told the Board that said the resident of One Creek Road contacted him about her high water bill. The resident told him the excessive bill was due to a silent toilet leak. The resident's complaint is that she would have been aware of the leak sooner if the Department billing cycle was not biannual. Mr. Branco suggested sending a copy of information about the size of leaks and how that could effect water consumption. Mr. Nunes suggested having a notification system in place that can recognize spikes in water consumption. Mr. Sullivan replied that they are currently looking at different types of meters that can be read more often electronically.

The Chairman noted that based on the information presented the Board could not abate the bill but could vote to adjust it based on the first tier block rate. Mr. Sullivan agreed and said he calculated an adjustment on the first bock rate for the Board consideration.

**Based on the recommendation of staff, a motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjust the outstanding water and sewer bill based on the first tier block billing rate for One Creek Road, for a total adjustment of \$554.53. So voted.**

### **Contract award recommendation – Chain Link Fence Project/Cross Road Water Tank**

Mr. Sullivan said the fence is circa 1950 and in grave need of replacement.

**A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to accept the recommendation of staff and award the contract for the Chain Line Fence Project – Cross Road Water Tank to New Bedford Wire & Iron Works, of New Bedford, MA for the low bid amount of \$12,333.00. So voted.**

## **SIGNATURE DOCUMENTS**

The Board members signed the following signature documents:

### **Sewer Betterment Assessments – Tucker Road, Birchfield Farm**

**A motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to accept the Sewer Betterment Assessments for Tucker Road and Birchfield Farm. So voted.**

### **Contract for Construction of Stormwater Treatment System – Prospect Street**

## OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked those present if they wished to discuss any other items that morning.

Mr. Branco asked when Nstar would be completing its work on Elm Street. Mr. Hickox said the gas company is currently replacing gas line. The Department has just completed the engineering and will bid out the 12" water main installation. When the sewer installation is complete, Elm Street and Wilson will be fully reconstructed. Mr. Branco asked if Nstar would share some of the cost of the final pavement. Mr. Hickox replied that Nstar provided the Town with a contribution for the maintenance of trenches along Elm Street a few years back.

Mr. Hickox gave the Board a progress update on the Dartmouth Street Reconstruction project. The Chairman asked when the road would be paved. Mr. Hickox answered that it would be paved in the spring. Mr. Nunes asked for the status of the ~~street~~ sign relocation. Mr. Hickox said he met with the state and it will be discussed with L.A.L. Bliss Express

Mr. Hickox provided the Board with an update on the sewer overflow malfunction at north station. He reported that the bubbler malfunctioned and the alarms did not sound. Mr. Cardoso added that north station is part of the five-year replacement plan. Mr. Hickox noted that Mr. Cardoso is conducting a complete inventory of pump station alarms. He added that he has also asked Mr. Cardoso to contact Mission to learn whether or not the software can set an alarm for pump run time as well as notifications for high levels. Mr. Cardoso replied that he has learned that it would only apply to pumping stations with lead pumps.

Mr. Branco asked if the Comprehensive Wastewater Study (CWS) is taking this information in to account. Mr. Hickox replied in the affirmative and added that FS&T will be before the Board in December to give to present the draft CWS. The Chairman asked if upgrading to full scale SCADA is part of the five-year plan. Mr. Cardoso replied that he has a partial SCADA system. Mr. Azinheira noted that with 20 pump stations it may be cost effective to upgrade to a full SCADA system. Mr. Hickox said they currently have a Mission software system that is live and can be monitored from any computer connected to the Internet.

On a related issue, Mr. Hickox informed the Board that the pump replacements to VFD pumps at the water treatment plant were part of an SRF grant application that is tied to the wind turbine grant. He spoke to DEP last week and learned that the grant application was ranked in the top tier due to the VFD pump replacement portion of it.

Mr. Branco asked for the status on the Faunce Corner Road Reconstruction Project. Mr. Hickox said he didn't see the widening improvement project commencing anytime soon and they are starting to lose pavement. VHB's recommendation was to cold plane and overlay at an estimated cost of \$700,000. The project need request to the state was denied. He will meet again with James Hatfield of MassDOT to discuss other options.

The Chairman asked for the status on the Solar Development Project at the capped landfill. Mr. Hickox reported that the request for proposals has been advertised and a site visit and pre-submission conference is schedule for November 19. The proposals are due December 10.

Mr. Hickox informed the Board that Mr. Azinheira and he met with Waste Management and viewed the automated collection equipment in action. He will generate the costs options to keep the operation in-house as well as the cost of a private company under contract. Mr. Nunes asked if the Department had received any updates on single stream recycling options. Mr. Hickox said he has heard

that ABC is also headed in that direction with the City of New Bedford. A brief discussion regarding automating the recycling operation ensued.

The Board members agreed to meet again on Thursday, December 2, at 7:30 a.m.

Having no further business to discuss that morning, at approximately 8:55 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Michelle L. DeFranco, Office Manager/Confidential Secretary

*as amended pg. 4*  
Approved: 12/16/2010