



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Fire District No. 2

20 Woodbridge Street • South Hadley, MA 01075

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Minutes of the Water Commissioner

February 25, 2021

Page 1 of 2

Convened: 5:32 p.m.

Adjourned: 6:32 p.m.

Present: F. DeToma, K. Bedard, D. Luis, M. Aiken, J. Carbin Bryan, B. Miller and M. O'Meara

Minutes of February 11, 2021:

F. DeToma moved to accept the February 11, 2021.

D. Luis motioned to accept the minutes of February 11, 2021.

K. Bedard seconded. The motion passed unanimously

Water Management Act Renewals:

The DEP is considering implementing restrictions during droughts. The restrictions would use different levels at different stages of a drought.

F. DeToma suggested to involve state Representatives if the DEP takes measures to implement the restrictions.

North Pole Estates:

J. Ouellette phoned M. Aiken and discussed the decommissioning (of the wells) issue on the property. They are looking into the process of locating the wells, but were curious why they are responsible for locating and decommissioning them if they didn't put them in.

We still are unsure if our department can legally go onto the property for inspection.

F. DeToma will be looking into what authority we have to go onto the property to inspect the area. If he is unable to find anything he will consult with council.

Elmer Brook Pump House Demolition:

The Prudential Board has set aside from their 2021/2022 budget, \$15,000 to go towards the Demolition of the Pump House. That is ½ of what is needed for demolition. (This area is accessible to the public and is a liability to the District).

F. DeToma moved to remove the Elmer Brook Pump House.

K. Bedard motioned "to tentatively put \$15,000 (half the cost) to remove the Elmer Brook pumping station building". D. Luis Seconded.

D. Luis asked; is this to be done this year, also if we are coming down on a shortfall this year, why are we doing it? Can it be held off till next year? F. DeToma; this has been a subject of discussion for several years. We are able to use our WSIF for the funds. D. Luis asked; isn't that only supposed to be used for infrastructure improvement. B. Miller answered, No. technically it is a holding account for what it is intended for, but can be used for this instance and others.

The Demolition expense will be put on our warrant for the annual District Meeting for the people to vote on.

F. DeToma asked for a vote on the Motion.

F. DeToma, Aye, K. Bedard, Aye, D. Luis, Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Bay State Forestry:

J. Menard contacted Bay State Forestry regarding a Forestry plan for the trees located on our property.
F. DeToma moved to have Bay State Forestry remove the trees.
D. Luis made a motion to have Baystate Forestry make up a forestry plan for parcels #19 & #20 on Elmer Brook property. Provided the Prudential Committee are in agreement.
K. Bedard seconded.
F. DeToma asked for a vote on the Motion.
F. DeToma, Aye, K. Bedard, Aye, D. Luis, Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

OPEB Contributions:

Odyssey Advisors asked if we could contribute \$50,000 every year as we would be getting better returns on our money. The pay as you go option is costlier. By the year 2045 we will be fully funded. D. Luis asked when did the funding start? B. Miller answered several years ago, but originally, we were putting in only \$5000 dollars we then had an actuarial study done and we started contributing what the study said to contribute, (Odyssey Advisors then asked us to contribute the \$50,000) D. Luis will investigate more on his own and will meet with the Treasurer for further information.
F. DeToma moved to fund OPEB Contributions
K. Bedard made a motion to annually fund the Water Employee and Retirees percentage of the \$50,000 Annual Trust Contribution Beyond Pay as you Go, to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund. The percentage to be determined according to the Net OPEB Liability in the most recent GASB74 and 75 Actuarial Valuation (currently by Odyssey Advisors).
D. Luis seconded.
F. DeToma asked for a vote on the Motion.
F. DeToma, Aye, K. Bedard, Aye, D. Luis, Aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Update:

Were on track with Diane Moss preparing the ERP for the state. Everything going well.

2021 – 2022 Budget:

M. Aiken went through our first run down of articles. Projections are very close to last years. We will be addressing the budget again at the next meeting.

Other Business:

K. Bedard attend the zoom meeting for grants. There are a few applications for out there for us.
K. Bedard did message the speaker/presenter Karen Runston to see if there are any grants, we may be eligible for. K. Bedard will stay on top of keeping the conversation going with K. Runston.

The next meeting of the Water Commissioners will be held on March 11, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Carbin Bryan
Administrative Assistant