

## **BOURNE WATER DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING, MARCH 10, 2026**

The meeting was duly posted.

Commissioner Brian Handy called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Present: Commissioners Brian Handy, Michael Lyons, and Peter Way. Also present: Superintendent Robert (Bob) Prophett, Treasurer/Clerk Kristen Noel, and Tom Pappas. The meeting was held at the District office at 211 Barlow's Landing Road, Pocasset.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **VERIZON UPDATE**

Bob Prophett stated he has not heard back from Verizon. No update available.

#### **SOLAR UPDATE**

Bob stated there has not been any communication from Next Grid since the last meeting. No update currently.

#### **BENNETTS NECK DRIVE – HYDRANT UPDATE**

Bob updated Board that bushes in front of the fire hydrant on Bennetts Neck Road will be removed. Bob spoke with the homeowner, and he has contracted a landscaper to do the job, but it may be a few weeks due to the blizzard. Mike Lyons asked if Bob contacted the police regarding this matter and Bob replied he did not.

#### **PAPPAS – SANDWICH ROAD, CHASE ESTATES**

Tom Pappas informed the Board that he owns property next to UTC off Sandwich Road and is building twenty-four freestanding one-bedroom condominiums to be called Chase Estates. Bob stated he and Tom had gone back and forth regarding water mains. A flow test was done although Bob never saw the actual results, so we are back at stage one. Bob received an email from Tom (from his engineer), and he believes an 8" pipe would be sufficient to go up the hill. Tom was originally told to tap it on Sandwich Road with a 16" and loop it back on Bosuns to make loop complete. In 2012, it was recommended 12" pipe. Bob did not have flow test information then either. Engineer now believes 8" would be fine. Bob recommended our engineer look at the pipe elevation and what we have for flow information. Mike Lyons asked where the flow test would have been done from. Bob stated it should be done with one hydrant from Sandwich Rd and flow from Bosuns Lane. Mike asked what size the main was on Bosun. Bob replied 8" and Sandwich Road has a 16" main. Bob again recommended to the Board that we have our engineering company review numbers and say yes or no to the 8" main. He stated that we are in the business of selling water and would like to be part of the project. Mike Lyons stated we also want to make sure

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everybody gets the right amount of water and fire protection is going to be sufficient. Mr. Pappas asked if it was required because it is near a subdivision to loop it. Bob stated if it is available. The loop does not have anything to do with pressure. It makes the flow of the water correct. Brian Handy stated if the price was marginal to go up to a 10" main, that might be a better solution. Bob stated that was a good point, but the engineer would review all numbers and let us know. Mike Lyons stated that the Board will vote to approve the subdivision once they have the plan and the engineer's recommendations.

### **TRUCK DECAL DISCUSSION**

Bob presented new decal but did not have time to adhere it to the truck. He stated the design is bigger than the original and each set cost \$120.00. Mike Lyons stated he would need to see it on the truck to decide.

### **NEW AUDITOR – ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Treasurer Kristen Noel updated the Board that she would like to engage the services of a new auditing firm, Roselli, Clark & Associates out of Woburn. They are a highly respected municipal auditing firm and Kristen stated that the District is fortunate to be working with them. They are getting inundated with requests from other towns and cities, trying to move away from our current auditing firm, CBIZ. CBIZ has been extremely unresponsive over this past year. The District has just received the draft copy of the FY2024 audit after CBIZ was on-site in January 2025 and had all the information needed at that time to complete their findings. Roselli sent the District a three-year contract for \$20,000 each year with an initial \$2000 implementation fee. Mike Lyons made the motion to accept Roselli, Clark & Associates as the District's new auditing firm, motion seconded, and all in favor. Brian Handy signed the contract as required.

### **FY2027 BUDGET**

Kristen began by updating the Board that the Department of Revenue had certified Free Cash in the amount of \$1,015,000.00. Kristen stated she was happy with this number but if the District wanted to keep Free Cash at this level in the future, it might be time to review rates and charges as the last time the District raised water rates was in 2012 and expenses are increasing at a rapid pace. Bob stated the District has some major projects that also will need to be addressed soon, including painting the Otis tank. Ideally, water revenue should fund the maintenance and operating portion of the budget and free cash should be used for capital projects. Because of increasing costs, there is also less money being "turned back" at the end of the year. Bob stated one example of this is when the District determined the stock budget amount of \$45,000, curb stops were \$98.00 each and are now \$180.00. It is getting harder to cover the unexpected expenses. Kristen continued that the draft FY2027 budget presented was level funded as best as it could be except for salaries and assessments, including Barnstable County Retirement. Many of the articles were not funded this year and those amounts were re-allocated to other line items. Mike Lyons supported raising the rates if needed and it made sense. Peter Way asked if calculations could be shared at the next meeting, backing into what rate is needed to fund the current budget, based upon the amount of

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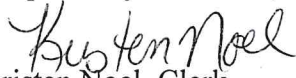
water being pumped. Mike agreed and thought it would be a better strategy to start with the rates and keep the customer service charge as is. Bob explained that he and Kristen had run a few scenarios and the actual cost came in closer to \$3.00 / 1000 gallons. Kristen stated she would present the final budget figures at the April meeting along with the annual meeting articles for review. She continued that she & Bob would also work on the rate calculations and share the findings at the April meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS NOT ANTICIPATED WITHIN 48 HOURS**

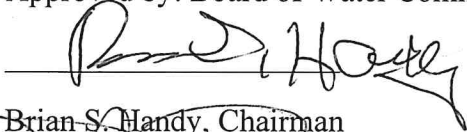
Bob updated the Board that eleven candidates applied for the Foreman position. Bob narrowed the candidates to six and sent emails requesting interviews. Bob asked the Board who would be interested in interviewing candidates with him. Peter was interested but was going out of town. Mike Lyons agreed and interviews will be conducted over a 2 day period.

MOTION was made to adjourn at 9:26 am. Motion seconded and all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Kristen Noel, Clerk

Approved by: Board of Water Commissioners

  
Brian S. Handy, Chairman

  
Peter R. Way, Commissioner

  
Michael Lyons, Commissioner