

**MINUTES**  
**HARWICH WATER DEPARTMENT**  
**BOARD OF WATER/WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS**  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
11:30 a.m.

**WATER COMMISSIONER'S PRESENT:** Chair Gary Carreiro, Vice Chair Allin Thompson, Clerk Noreen Donahue, Commissioner Judith Underwood, Commissioner John Gough

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Superintendent Dan Pelletier, Comptroller Sandra Sieger, Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Administrative Assistant Tracey Alves, Patrick Otten and Sky

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Carreiro called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Minutes
  - 1. January 18, 2023

The date on the Minutes was a misprint. The Minutes of January 26, 2023 will be added to the next agenda.

**ABATEMENTS**

- A. FY23 Q2 Water Department Usage; \$2,874.27

Chair Thompson moved to approve the FY23 Q2 Water Department Usage; \$2,874.27 with a second by Commissioner Underwood, all in favor; 4-0-0.

Commissioner Gough arrived at the meeting.

- B. 24 Gorham Rd

Chair Carreiro moved to deny the abatement request. Clerk Donahue seconded the motion, all in favor; 5-0-0.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Route 28 Watermain Replacement Project Update

Superintendent Pelletier provided an overview to the Board of the Route 28 Watermain Replacement Project.

GHD provided two new updated cost estimates and there are still some changes that will likely be made. Contract #1 is from Division St to the Herring River and Contract #2 is from the Herring River to Lower County Rd. Only a portion is being done by MA DOT which is why they are broken up.

If you add these two together we are at a project cost of \$16 million. The placeholder was for \$14 million at Town Meeting.

B. Water Restrictions Bylaw & Special Legislation

The Board discussed the due process procedure should fines be added to the water bills.

The staff would like to take some time with Superintendent Pelletier to talk through the steps of how the administrative process would work to make sure the bylaws and regulations support the process.

The wording of the watering hours was removed from the bylaw so the Board could retain the ability to dictate what the hours should be.

Clerk Underwood commented that the MA Clean Energy Center pays for University Interns during the summer for water and wastewater interns, they have everything from marketing to technical engineering.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. FY23 Water Revenue Projections

The projections will be tabled until the next agenda.

B. Fertilizer Education-Lothrop Tank Site

Superintendent Pelletier would like to work with the Health, Conservation and Golf regarding demonstrating and educating people on how to grow a green, proper Cape Cod lawn with clover. We have the Lothrop tank site to make an example out of and could demonstrate by reseeding it with clover. The dialog and steps taken could be documented and we could have that information publicly available so if anyone wants to know how to do it we could provide that information.

Billing Administrator Marsh had brought up doing a rain barrel campaign too. In addition to rain barrels, rain sensors for irrigation could encourage good water use as well. The Department could purchase rain sensors to give out. Superintendent Pelletier will put together a program.

C. FY24 Assistant Wastewater Superintendent Position

This item will remain on the agenda. Clerk Donahue would like to see a similar job description and would like to review the Assistant Water Superintendent's job description.

D. FY23 Q2 Water & Wastewater Budget Updates

Superintendent Pelletier provided the Board with updates on both the FY23 Q2 Water & Wastewater budgets.

Clerk Donahue questioned the Wastewater budget's Interfund transfer and said there is something that is not right about it. It makes Wastewater look like it has \$2 million dollars which it doesn't. Something major is going on here.

Superintendent Pelletier explained to the Board about the wastewater debt that is included in the wastewater budget for tracking reasons. Superintendent Pelletier would like to get all of the wastewater debt schedules.

E. Request from Patrick Otten-Fertilizer Home Rule Petition

Patrick Otten attended the meeting to request the Board's support of Home Rule for the application of fertilizers.

The Board of Selectmen has voted to go with the State plan at this time. Clerk Donahue supports the Select Board's method for the moment and the plan by our Department Heads.

Patrick Otten clarified that this is not a ban, it is a regulation. He's not sure that the standards that are being applied by the State are appropriate for where we live.

Superintendent Pelletier's concern with the fertilizers that are often touted as organic are often made from wastewater biosolids which are known to contain PFAS. If we steer everyone toward an organic alternative, that would then result in putting PFAS out instead of fertilizer.

Chair Thompson moved to support Patrick Otten's Home Rule Petition. Commissioner Underwood seconded the motion; 2-2-0.

No action will be taken on the Board's behalf.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

A. Procurement Update- Waterworks Supplies Bid

Superintendent Pelletier relayed that a contract was signed with Ferguson Waterworks for the Waterworks Supplies Bid.

The Conflict-of-Interest training is due.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chair Carreiro read the new procedure for remote meeting participation.

The budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will be held at 9am on March 4, 2023 in the Griffin Room at Town Hall.

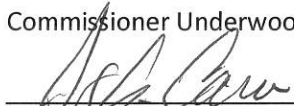
Clerk Donahue would like to meet with the staff regarding the Water Restrictions Bylaw. Keep in mind, that we could still keep the ticketing system. To do so, we could cross off the part about the fines going on the water bills. A more final draft of the Bylaw will be brought to the meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

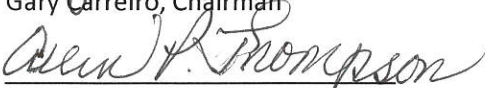
**NEXT MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 11:30 a.m.

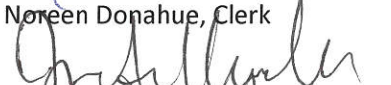
## ADJOURNMENT

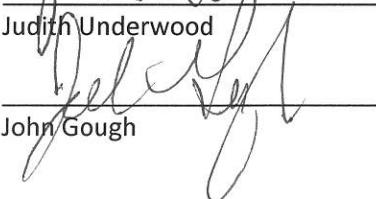
Chair Carreiro motioned to adjourn at 1:06 p.m. Vice Chair Thompson moved the motion and Commissioner Underwood seconded. All in favor; 5-0-0.

  
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Gary Carreiro, Chairman

  
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Allin P. Thompson, Vice Chair

  
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Noreen Donahue, Clerk

  
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Judith Underwood

  
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John Gough

  
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Dan Pelletier, Superintendent

  
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Tracey Alves, Board Secretary