Town of Rowley

Municipal Water Department
401 Central St., Rowley, MA
Office: 978.948.2640

February 25, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairperson, Bernie Cullen, Commissioner, John Manning, Primary Treatment Operator, Rob Swiniarski, Administrative Assistant, Kathy Bento

Chairman Cullen opened the meeting at 6:35.

Agenda Items:

1. **Discuss waving the fees and interest on a property lien:**
   Commissioner Emery motioned to waive the fees and interest. Commissioner Manning seconded. **All in favor at 6:40.**

2. **Review of the Pennichuck contract:**
   Chairperson Cullen explained it is time to renew the contract, and the Board needs to review the current contract and make any changes. Commissioner Emery said the only change he wanted was to receive a monthly customer call log, which Pennichuck has already started.

3. **Update on current projects:**
   Rob said the insurance company has approved the claim for the generator and the contractor, Cummins will begin the repairs soon. Mark asked if the RWD must pay another deductible. Rob said it is just a continuation of the regular claim.

   Rob said he is working on the Annual Statistics Report, which is due in April.

   Rob explained that he will be working on a mandatory water audit, which is being funded by a grant. This is due to unaccounted-for water. He must gather a significant amount of information for the auditors. He has been working on this issue since 2016 and has been providing reports since then, and it has gone nowhere. He believes that many meters are failing and we will continue to replace them. This should take care of most of the unaccounted-for water.

   Rob said he has been working to complete the budget.

   Regarding the New Water Source project, Chair Cullen said that Tata and Howard reported that the water source next to Well 2 is not sufficient. They found one sufficient location in the area, but it did not produce enough water. Rob said this project has been put on hold.

4. **Discuss the next steps to address the PFAS Issue at Well 2:**
   Chair Cullen explained that he has been in discussions with Chase Bank, the owners of the property, across from the diner where the gas station used to be. He asked the owners to test for PFAS and the report came back positive. He and Rob had a meeting with a PFAS expert and asked him to put together a proposal to cover the investigative work. They will investigate the source of the PFAS for Well 2. Commissioner Manning motioned that we start a project to investigate the source of the PFAS at Well 2. Commissioner Emery seconded. **All in favor at 8:00.** Rob said he will begin a Source Water Protection Survey project. He will start applying for grants.

5. **Board to discuss Amendment No.1 to Engin. Agreement. for Fenno Dr. project:**
   Chair Cullen asked for Tata & Howard would come to a Board meeting and explain their request for more money.

6. **Chairperson's report on current and future operations of the department:**
   Chair Cullen said the opening for the superintendent's position is now on the Town website.

Next meeting: March 18, 2025

Approve Minutes:

Jan. 25, 2025: Commissioner Manning motioned to approve. Commissioner Emery seconded. All in favor at 8:10

Minutes approved at the April 22, 2025 meeting

Adjourn:

Commissioner Manning motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Emery seconded**. All in favor at 8:11.**

Commissioner Emery motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Manning seconded**. All in favor at 8:45.**

Documents provided/discussed at the meeting are available at the Water Department office:
Meeting Agenda
Budget reports
Engineering Contract
Lien documents

Open Meeting Law,' G.L. 39, S.23B, the approval of these minutes by the Board constitutes a certification of the date, time and place of the meeting, the members present and absent, and any

actions taken at the meeting. Any other description of statements made by any person, or the summary of the discussion of any matter, is included for context only, and no Certification, express or implied, be made by the Board as to the completeness or accuracy of such statements.