TOWN OF ROWLEY
Municipal Water Department
401 Central St.
Rowley, MA 01969
Office: 978-948-2640

Robert Swiniarski
Water Superintendent

Board of Water Commissioners
Bernard Cullen, Chairman
John Manning, Commissioner
Mark Emery, Commissioner

August 19, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairperson, Bernie Cullen, Commissioner Mark Emery, Commissioner John Manning, Superintendent, Rob Swiniarski

Chairman Cullen opened the meeting at 5:30.

1. **Discuss abatement for 88 Main St.:**
   Commissioner Cullen said this issue is about an irrigation system. The problem arose when the system was turned on. The calculation was based on twelve months but the high usage occurred between May and September. He asked for a re-calculation for the six months only.

2. **Vote on Superintendent Robert Swiniarski work clothes, and work boots expense allowance of $1,000.00 per Fiscal Year. Any expenses incurred dated after July 1st, 2025, will be retroactively covered. This allowance will be given annually to all future Superintendent's:**
   Commissioner Emery made a motion that going forward, starting July 1st., 2025, the Superintendent will be given a yearly $1000 clothing allowance. Commissioner Manning seconded. **All in favor at 5:45.**

3. **Vote on removing the 2012 Ford F-150 pickup truck VIN# 1FTFX1EF9CFA45755 miles:147,319 from the Rowley Water vehicle fleet, and disposing of the vehicle in accordance with the Towns Rules & regulations:**
   Commissioner Manning made a motion to dispose of the vehicle. Chair Cullen seconded. **All in favor at 5:50.**

4. **Review and discuss revised Fee Schedule for Rowley Water Department:**
   Superintendent Swiniarski explained that the biggest changes would affect commercial buildings**.** Tier 2 would end at 10,000/gal. and Tier 3 would start at 10,001/gal. The average

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usage for a 4-person household is 7,500/gal. per month. More than 10,000 gallons is usually considered commercial usage. He said the 2026 M26 water audit showed that the town could generate up to $60,000 per year by adjusting the Tier 2 rate.

The other change would be to remove the hydrant rental fee from the schedule. Rob wants to eliminate the option for contractors to rent a hydrant. He said it doesn't generate any revenue, and the hydrants are usually returned damaged.

Rob said there was never a service fee for data loggers, and there should be a charge for two or more for each high usage incident. He said it would be a good deterrent for customers not to overuse the service. He will leave each case up to the descretion of the Water Department.

Commissioner Manning motioned to accept the revised schedule. Commissioner Emery seconded. **All in favor at 6:30.**

5. **Discuss Future Outlook of Water Supply Report for 3A development:**
Rob explained that many residents and Town departments are very concerned about the amount of water Rowley will be able to supply. He created a report, explaining how much water we have to distribute. We are permitted by the State to withdraw water from the ground. We are permitted to withdraw up to 2,750,000 million gallons per year. We are currently pumping 158 million gallons per year. He explained that Rowley could not supply for more than one thousand additional residents, approximately 250 additional dwellings. Rob will be working with the Planning Board and contractors to have them prove that they can meet these numbers. Commissioner Emery motioned to have Rob arrange a meeting with the Planning Board Director so he understands these numbers and can communicate them to his Board. Commissioner Manning seconded. **All in favor at 7:00.**

6. **Update on EC-SDC grant application:**
This grant is for the PFAS mitigation at Well #2. Rob said the application was formally submitted last week to the Mass DEP for review and it will then be going to the EPA for their review. We will be doing a full scale pilot PFAS mitigation system study. He presented a report with the necessary expenses for the study, totalling approximately three million dollars. He said the grant would allocate 1.5 million for the study, pending the application review.

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7. **Review and discuss FY24 final budget numbers:**
   Chair Culllen said the revenues are in good shape, but there are some expenditures that need to be watched, especially in the distribution line. He credited our department accountant, Carrie Kennedy, with her great contribution to putting the budget together.

8. **Superintendent's report on current and future operations of the department:**
   Rob said the Well #3 Redevelopment Project has been completed and is running very well.

   - The Fenno Dr. project has been completed and was under budget.
   - We are still looking for a Primary Treatment Operator.
   - The operators have started replacing valves and will continue to do so.

Next meeting: September 16, 2025

Adjourn:
Commissioner Manning motioned to adjourn, **VIDEO STOPPED** seconded**. All in favor at 8:15.**

Minutes approved at the 9-16-25

Documents provided/discussed at the meeting are available at the Water Department office:
Meeting Agenda
Budget reports
Abatement application

Minutes respectfully prepared by Kathy Bento

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.

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