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, Chair
John Manning, Commissioner
Mark Emery, Commissioner

November 18, 2025
Meeting Minutes

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

Chairman Cullen opened the meeting at 5:30.

1. **Discuss abatement application for 51 Saunders Ln.:**
   Commissioner Manning made a motion to approve the abatement.
   Commissioner Emery seconded**. All in favor at 5:40.**

2. **Discuss abatement application for 83 Glen St.:**
   Commissioner Manning said the past due amount should have been resolved with the previous owners at closing.
   Commissioner Manning motioned to deny the abatement. Commissioner Emery seconded. **All in favor at 5:55.**

3. **Discuss Town Hydrant Rental Fee of $14,000 and Private Development Rental Fee:**
   Superintendent, Swiniarski suggested we don't charge the Town for the hydrants because we maintain all hydrants regardless, and we do that by utilizing money from the water rates. This would allow the Town to save money, and we will be able to maintain all hydrants.
   Commissioner Manning asked if we could still maintain the budget and forego that revenue.
   Rob said our recent change to the tier structure will allow us to maintain the budget.
   Commissioner Manning motioned to make a change to our budget in process and not charge the Town. Commissioner Emery seconded**. All in favor at 6:00.**

4. **Discuss PFAS Water Source Investigation:**
   Rob explained that he and Chair Cullen had a meeting with the engineering consultants and discussed their timeline and game plan. We are currently drafting a letter requesting access to the area from the abutting residents to get to existing test wells around well #2. This will require some sort of agreement and sign-off by the privately owned landowners. Chair Cullen added that several test wells have been identified in the area and they are either Town or State-owned land. He said the engineering firm needs to move this along. He also stated that the Department will be looking at expanding production out of well #2.

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5. **Discuss Emergency Excavation Contract:**
   Rob said the Town requires that we have a contract for Emergency Excavation. He is working on a draft bid. He is hoping to have it completed and ready for the Board to review at the next meeting.

6. **Discuss budget as of September 2025:**
   Chair Cullen said overall we are doing well revenue wise. Superintendent Swiniarski stated that we are ahead of what we predicted in the budget.

7. **Superintendent's Report:**

   Rob explained that the new tier 2 and 3 rate structure for the billing is in effect. It will only slightly affect the highest customers in the highest tiers.

   The Department received reimbursement for the cybersecurity project.

   A new sign was installed outside above the door. The old sign was very worn and needed to be replaced.

   Rob and Chair Cullen recently gave a tour of the Treatment Plant to Dennis Roy and Lyle Grahm of the Finance Committee.

   The AC system at WTP needs to be replaced. Rob gas has been getting quotes. He is still thinking through how he'd like to proceed.

   Rob said he replaced a fire hydrant on Newbury Rd.

   Rob presented the Board the Fenno Drive payment application #3 for their review and to vote on Board and then signed. Commissioner Manning made a motion to authorize the disbursement of payment application #3. Commissioner Emery seconded. **All in favor at 7:00**.

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Approve minutes:
October 14, 2025
The Board did not accept and sent them back for correction.

Next Meeting:
December 9, 2025
December 16, 2025

Adjourn:
Commissioner Manning motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Emery seconded. **All in favor at 6:30 pm.**

Minutes approved at the December 16, 2025 meeting

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