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

Board of Water Commissioners
401 Central Street
August 18, 2026
5:30pm

Meeting Minutes

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

Chair Cullen opened the meeting at 5:37.

1. **Discuss abatement application for 233 Main:**
   Commissioner Manning motioned to approve the abatement application. Commissioner Emery seconded**. All in favor at 5:40.**

2. **Discuss abatement application for 22 Mehaffey:**
   The Board tabled the item for the next meeting and will need an actual amount to abate. Commissioner Emery motioned to table. Commissioner Manning seconded. **All in favor at 5:45.**

3. **Discuss transfer of Unforeseen Funds to article for Main Valve Replacement:**
   Superintendent Swiniarski explained that gate valves were replaced on the corner of Cross St. and Jellison Rd. as part of a capital improvement plan. He said all the remaining funds were used because more valves that needed replacement were found. Superintendent Swiniarski said he needs the funds from the Unforeseen line to be transferred into an article for a Main Valve Replacement project in that area. The Board agreed and will discuss it again later in the fiscal year.

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4. **Discuss Budget:**

   The Board briefly discussed the budget and agreed that it is in order.

5. **Superintendent's report:**

   Superintendent Swiniarski highlighted his report.

- Started 2026 annual Lead & Copper sampling program. Samples will be collected from 20 homeowners and all schools/daycares.
- On July 21st, 2026 crew replaced a leaking 8" gate valve at the intersection of Cross Street and Jellison Ave. crew was unsuccessful due to multiple gate valve failures on Cross Street, and intersection of cross st & Pleasant Street. A total of four (4) separate valves failed, and water could not be shut off. Crew returned the next day on July 22 and had to shut off water on all of School St, Pleasant St, Cross St, and Jellison. Once water was shutoff, we were able to install a new 3 way 8" gate vale tee at Cross St & Jellison. Further work needs to be done in the area to replace the failed valves.
- On July 22, 2026, a Service Line leak was reported at 19 Ocean Ave. crew was already repairing water main valves on Cross St. house was unoccupied, so crew was able to shut off service at the water main late afternoon. Service was off until crew could return to replace.
- On July 23, 2026, crew replaced leaking Iron Pipe service at 19 Ocean Ave.
- On July 24th, 2026, Tata & Howard submitted our Project Evaluation Form (PEF) to State Revolving Fund (SRF) for our PFAS Full Scale Pilot Study.
- Received Enforcement Order from Rowley Conservation Commission for discharging water in a wetland area during a water main valve replacement on 7/22/2026 at the intersection of Cross Street & Jellison.
- Met with Rep Kristin Kassner & Rowley Farms to continue discussions regarding Well #2, and future water needs. Topics discussed where:
    - Revisiting emergency SRF funding through MassDEP. They know it was denied because it was not in the acute health threat category, but don't believe MassDEP cannot make an exception.
    - When we constructed a full-scale pilot study our Reps were informed that MassDEP will require a period of sampling before we can actually use the water. They have questions

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regarding this process, what's the typical time from other communities/examples, and what can be done to speed that up.
    - Rep Kassner had some questions regarding the Pilot Proposal Technical Deficiencies letter we received (attached for reference). Kassner had a conversation with MassDEP, and they made it sound like the technical deficiencies were holding the project up.
    - Discuss plans for a permanent plant on site for future growth. Specifically, how much money it would cost, and how the State/Feds could help.
- Installed two (2) test wells at 435 Haverhill St Well #2 for testing PFAS in Zone II of the watershed. Test wells will match the depth of well #2 and provide us with a representative PFAS sample in the direction of our designated Zone II area. Test wells will need a few weeks to develop before samples can be taken.
- Continued work on the Lead Service Line Inventory Investigation. Rowley still has Grant funds to continue work on investigation. Submitted Grant extension request which was approved until November 2027. As of 8/18/2026 there is $120,000 remaining in our LSLI Grant. A total of 133 test pits need to be excavated. We have received two (2) quotes for the work, and lowest quote is $220,000 to complete the test pits.
- Water Main Break at 54 Hillside on 8/13/2026. At 7pm operators received a low Prospect Hill Storage tank alarm from SCADA. At this time, we received no reports of water leaks from dispatch. Operators proceeded to search for potential main break all around town and found the main was broken at 54 Hillside Street. This area of Hillside Street has had multiple water main failures over the past few years (4-5 main breaks) water main is made of Ductile Iron which is typically a strong material that’s designed to last 100 + years.
- Replaced curb stop box at 58 Central Street on 8/17/2026. Box was reported broken by homeowner, and operators replaced box in house. Service line was GRR on both sides.

Approve Minutes:

July 21, 2026: Chair Cullen motioned to accept the minutes. Commissioner Manning Seconded. **All in favor at 6:30.**

Next meeting

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September 22, 2026

Adjourn:

Commissioner Emery motioned to adjourn. Chair Cullen seconded. **All in favor at 6:30.**

Minutes approved at the __9/22/26____meeting.

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