

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2014**

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman
Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner
Mr. Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner

EWWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. David Thompson, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Waste Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Edgartown Waste Water Treatment Facility, located at 330 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:00 p.m. Chairman Glen S. Searle called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE: UPDATED MAWARN AGREEMENT.

Facilities Manager David Thompson spoke about the Massachusetts Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (MAWARN or WARN), an agency that provided for mutual aid and assistance between towns or utilities in the event of an emergency. He related that when he had taken the reins of the Department, he had come across a copy of a WARN agreement between the Oak Bluffs and Edgartown Waste Water Departments, signed on both sides by former Facilities Manager Joseph N. Alosso, who had headed the departments concurrently. Mr. Thompson pointed out, though, that despite the signed agreement, the departments had not been part of the official WARN network.

Recent flooding at Five Corners in Tisbury and a dearth of on-Island resident employees at Tisbury Wastewater Operations had led to a revived interest in the WARN network in the Vineyard wastewater community, continued Mr. Thompson. Stephen Vancour at Tisbury had approached him to inquire if there was anyone on the Edgartown crew Mr. Vancour could call on in an emergency. So the Facilities Manager had attended a September 10 meeting that had included James Monteith, Wastewater Facilities Manager in Oak Bluffs; Mr. Vancour, head of Wastewater Operations in Tisbury; Glenn Mauk, Director of Public Works in Tisbury; and Michael Eldridge, Chief Water and Wastewater Operator at the Martha's Vineyard Airport.

Mr. Thompson related that the group had talked about their mutual problems with emergency staffing and that they had agreed to speak with their respective boards about signing a WARN agreement to address those concerns. The next step would be to approach the water departments of Oak Bluffs and Tisbury. (Edgartown's was already part of the network) "We can elect to participate or decline when they call," said the Facilities Manager, adding that the Town of Edgartown would be "on the hook" for worker's compensation expenses if an employee were to be hurt responding to a call in another town.

Chairman Searle wanted to know about the effective term of the agreement. Basically forever, replied Mr. Thompson, or until the Town provided written notice of withdrawal. Responding to another query from the Chairman, the Facilities Manager described how in a pinch another department might need a mechanical part that the Edgartown Department could provide. "They buy me a replacement," he explained. The discussion continued. Waste Water Commissioner Sean E. Murphy remarked on the "gentlemen's agreement"-type accommodation among the parties the network made possible. Mr. Thompson agreed.

Commissioner Scott Ellis pointed out that in the case of an federally declared emergency, being members of the network made it more likely that the Department would receive reimbursement from FEMA for expenditures like overtime. Chairman Searle said he could conceive of emergency situations where as much as \$5,000 could be spent on overtime pay. "I'm happy with this agreement," he added. Commissioner Ellis then made a motion that Facilities Manager David Thompson sign the WARN Agreement, seconded by the Chairman. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**DISCUSSION: FY15 BUDGET CONCERNS; POSSIBLE
SPECIAL MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES.**

Facilities Manager Thompson reported that Administrative Assistant Pia Webster had put together the "very latest" figures for FY15 Operating Budget Expenditures and that it looked as if "the trend has flattened out a bit." Admin Assistant Webster directed the Board's attention to the bottom lines on page 2 of the report, to wit, the second set of figures where the October 1 payroll had been factored in to provide a fairer comparison with the FY14 numbers.

Mr. Thompson continued that he had sat down with electrician Cole Powers to discuss the headworks gas detector job and the Dunham Road controller. *[For an earlier discussion of these planned purchases, see page 5 of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2014.]* What the Facilities Manager had not anticipated was the "easy-peasy" nature of the installations, something he came to understand once Mr. Powers had described what was

involved. In other words, Mr. Thompson's estimates for the electrical work had been on the high side.

In addition, the Facilities Manager had resubmitted the quote forms to prospective vendors, making them more precise, since the quotes that had come in had been "all over the map." Mr. Thompson was beginning to think, he said, "We may not bust the piñata on it, as I feared." As one example, he noted, "we don't have to replace all the hazardous atmosphere stuff."

In short, concluded Mr. Thompson, in his judgment the best course would be to forego any Special Meeting Warrant Articles at this time, since Operating Budget Expenditures had settled and the major purchases just down the road were not going to do the damage he had expected. The Chairman and Commissioners agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

FACILITIES MANAGER'S REPORT.

The Facilities Manager reported that the Conditions Assessment package had been delivered to the Selectmen's Office on September 4. That same day he had learned of the Town-wide contract with Vineyard Propane at \$1.77 per gallon. On September 8 Mr. Thompson had set up the annual EIS flow meter calibration visit for early October.

The Facilities Manager moved on to the topic of 314 CMR 7.00, the Sewer System and Connection Permit Program. As he had known the regulations, an extension of sewer main for less than 1,000 feet required an after-the-fact permit from the State. On September 19, though, he had learned that main extensions of less than 1,000 feet no longer required *any* permit. As he always had, Mr. Thompson himself would continue to require a drawing of the installation, he said.

Commissioner Murphy asked if MassDEP weighed in on these matters. No, answered Mr. Thompson, they were generally concerned only if the project occurred on a State highway.

The Facilities Manager also recounted how he had conversed early in September with Ron Zweig of the Water Quality Management Committee of Falmouth, where plans were under way to install 800 E-One grinder pumps in a one section of town. These were new tie-ins? asked Commissioner Murphy. Yes, replied Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Zweig said there would be no service to the pumps offered by the town itself. "I said that is a mistake," remarked Mr. Thompson, who added that in the alternative there ought to be well-trained, town-approved technicians assigned to service the pumps.

AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORTS; SEPTEMBER UPDATES.

Admin Assistant Webster went over a report titled "FY14 Sewer Billing Collection as of September 25, 2014," which showed a total of \$12,569.11 (1.1 percent of the Adjusted Commitment) left to collect. Of the 25 unpaid balances, seven had made at least partial payments. Of the 18 that had no credits, one property was part of bankruptcy proceedings; another was in foreclosure; and two properties had been sold within the past year.

As for the Treasurer's Receipts for the Month Ending September 30, 2014, Mrs. Webster said she expected a total of about \$41,000 in Septage Billed Collections, which stood that day at \$38,202.17.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Next, the Commissioners considered the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2014**. Commissioner Murphy referred to the section on pages 3 to 4 under New Business titled "Discussion/Vote: Sewer Service to 50-Lot Subdivision (M37-L47)." The minutes did not reflect, he said, the fact that he and Chairman Searle were addressing only the advisability of sewerage for the project before them and were in no way passing judgment on the suitability of the 50-lot project itself. Chairman Searle agreed with the amendment to the minutes. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, with the Chairman offering a second. The motion carried by voice vote, with Messrs. Murphy and Searle voting aye and Commissioner Ellis abstaining because he had not attended that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board members aimed for October 23 as the date for their next Regular Meeting. There being no further business or comment, the Chairman asked a motion to adjourn. Mr. Murphy offered a motion to adjourn, with Chairman Searle providing a second. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Chairman Searle adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

Glen S. Searle, Chairman

Scott Ellis, Commissioner

Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner