

**TOWN OF EDGARTOWN
BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2019**

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Glen S. Searle, Chairman

Mr. Scott Ellis, Commissioner

WASTE WATER COMMISSIONER PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Mr. Sean E. Murphy, Commissioner

EWWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Rock, Plant Operator

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 a Special Meeting on Monday, November 4, 2019, 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. Also present from the Board was Waste Water Commissioner Scott Ellis. In communication via speakerphone was Waste Water Commissioner Sean E. Murphy.

OLD BUSINESS:

UPDATE/DISCUSS: PROGRESS ON HIRING NEW WASTEWATER OPERATORS.

Facilities Manager David Thompson reported that the following day he was interviewing one of three current applicants for the position of Junior Operator. Commissioner Murphy wanted to know if the applicant resided on the Island, and Mr. Thompson answered that he did.

Commissioner Ellis asked about advertising for a Chief Operator. Mr. Thompson explained that he had run a “three-in-one ad” that solicited candidates for the Junior Operator, Plant Operator and Chief Operator positions.

NEW BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION: HIRING OF NEW FACILITIES MANAGER.

Chairman Searle invited Facilities Manager Thompson, who had recently submitted a letter of resignation, to speak. Mr. Thompson related that he felt he just had to move on. Fortunately, he said, the Department had never been in better shape in terms of revenue or progress on Capital Improvement Projects. Although there was “still a lot of stuff on the table,” he would be around and would be reachable if problems arose, he said.

Plant Operator Joseph Rock said that he had not taken his Grade 6 test again yet but planned to do that on November 18. Mr. Thompson pointed out that according to 257 CMR Section 2.12, as a Class 7 complex, the Facility had to be led by a Grade 7 Operator, which was someone who had passed a Grade 6 examination and possessed at least eight years of experience at a level of responsibility comparable to that of a Class 6 plant or higher. Mr. Rock noted that in May 2020 he would have a full five years of experience at the Plant.

Mr. Thompson explained that having passed the Grade 6 examination, an operator could petition the DEP for emergency certification. For instance, when Joe Alosso had taken over the Plant, he had been a Grade 4, and he had been able to obtain emergency certification. So if that was the direction the Department wanted to take, said Mr. Thompson, the first thing for Mr. Rock to do was to pass the Grade 6 examination.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Murphy, Mr. Thompson said that his last day of work would be November 27.

The Facilities Manager had produced a paper titled “Succession Report EWWTF,” dated November 1, 2019, the purpose of which was to examine the short-, middle- and long-term operation of the Facility in the form of a legacy document. He went through the highlights of the report.

Commissioner Ellis wondered if bed valves No. 2 and No. 6 had been purchased yet, and Mr. Thompson replied that he was “still wrangling” with procurement issues in that regard. He spoke also of the lean-to the crew would construct to shelter the gen set trailer; the new three-year contracts for sludge cake disposal that were ready in draft form; and the fact that engineer Ian Catlow would be visiting monthly for updates on progress in the Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Thompson said that he was sorry to go and that he really appreciated the support and attitude of the Commission. Chairman Searle thanked the Facilities Manager for his service and time, as did Commissioners Ellis and Murphy.

Commissioner Murphy wanted to know if the Plant needed both a Facilities Manager and a Chief Operator. Yes, answered Mr. Thompson, who described the Chief Operator’s duties as being, among other things, the day-to-day preventive maintenance of the Plant, the rounds of the buildings, the parts inventory and the organization of the crew’s workloads. The regulations, he said, called for an Assistant Chief Operator, which is what the Town of Edgartown called a Chief Operator; while what the regulations described as a Chief Operator, the Town of Edgartown called a Facilities Manager. In any event, the regulations called for the Assistant Chief Operator

to have the grade of the Plant, which in Edgartown's case would be a Grade 7. Mr. Thompson confirmed that both positions were funded.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Searle made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting, which Commissioner Ellis seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote. The Regular Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

BOARD OF WASTE WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

Glen S. Searle, Chairman

Scott Ellis, Commissioner