

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2011**

WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mr. Robert L. Burnham, Chairman
Mr. John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner

EWD STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Fred R. Domont, Water Superintendent
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Bill Richard, Martha's Vineyard Model Flying Club

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting on a special day (the fourth Tuesday of the month instead of the second) on April 26, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at the offices of the Water Department located at Fifty-Eight Kavanagh Way, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:07 p.m., Chairman Robert L. Burnham called the meeting to order.

NEW BUSINESS:

PROPOSAL: BILL RICHARD OF THE M.V. MODEL FLYING CLUB.

With Bill Richard of the Martha's Vineyard Model Flying Club already present, Chairman Burnham opted to skip ahead to the agenda item regarding the club's proposal to have the Town of Oak Bluffs bring water service to an area they used in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest. Mr. Richard introduced himself as the president and safety officer of the club, which comprised a group of 32 enthusiasts.

Five years ago, Mr. Richard related, State Forest administrators had granted them permission to use an open, grassy space for their activities. Keeping the grass in good condition, though, took water. Using a map, Mr. Richard pointed to the field in question,

noting that while it was indeed situated in Edgartown, it was far more practical to bring in water from the Town of Oak Bluffs, which had water main running to the high school. However, the Oak Bluffs Water District, though willing to deliver the water, was requesting written permission from the Edgartown Water Department to serve a location outside its district.

Water Superintendent Fred R. Domont explained that the Board of Water Commissioners would have to grant the Oak Bluffs Water District a variance of the water franchise rights held by the Edgartown Water Department for the parcel under discussion. Said variance, though, would not survive in perpetuity but would expire at such time that the Water Department had extended its system to that area, at which point it would reassume those franchise rights. The variance could be granted in letter form, he added.

“I don’t have any objections to it,” said Chairman Burnham. “I don’t either,” Water Commissioner John S. Lovewell agreed. The Chairman then made the following motion: That the Board of Water Commissioners would allow the Oak Bluffs Water District to provide water service for the purpose of irrigation to a parcel in the Manuel F. Correllus State Forest, as defined by the Martha’s Vineyard Model Flying Club and lying within the bounds of the Town of Edgartown, until such time that the Town of Edgartown Water Department, which holds the franchise rights to said parcel, is able to supply water to that area. Mr. Lovewell provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

There followed a brief discussion of why the club could not conduct its activities at the Land Bank’s Trade Wind Fields Preserve in Oak Bluffs, as well as of the use of drones in the battlefield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Commissioners turned to the **Amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 30, 2010**. The content of these minutes, explained Admin Assistant Pia Webster, had already been approved in the Regular Meeting of May 18, 2011. The latter minutes had been approved in the January 11, 2011 meeting, and in reading *those* over, Mrs. Webster had noticed that Mr. Lovewell had expressed his wish to check the revisions he had proposed to the April 30, 2010 minutes. That was what they were looking at today, she concluded. Mr. Lovewell accepted the revisions.

Then Mr. Lovewell made a motion to approve the Amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 30, 2010, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Next, the Commissioners considered the **Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 25, 2010**. Mr. Lovewell pointed to the second and third sentences in the sixth paragraph on

page 2, which read: “Chairman Burnham commented that the Water Commissioners had been trying to meet with the Town Auditor for years. Chairman Serpa suggested a joint meeting of all parties concerned.” “That went over the dam!” Mr. Lovewell declared. He then made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 25, 2010 as written, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Moving on to the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2010**, Mr. Lovewell commented on the final paragraph that began at the bottom of page 5, which read: “Mr. Lovewell inquired if a running total of the monthly Commitment sums was kept. Mrs. Webster explained that the Commitment form which the Commissioners signed each month was in a format demanded by the Town Accountant.” Mr. Lovewell’s remark was, “Amen!”

Mr. Lovewell made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2010 as written, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Lovewell found fault with the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2010**. In the second paragraph on page 4, he noted, it would not be correct to say that one would study how much water was being pumped between two and three in the morning when doing a leak detection survey. After a brief discussion with Mr. Domont, Mr. Lovewell settled on substituting the word “withdrawn” for the word “pumped” in the following sentence: “One of the things such a study would take up, for example, would be how much water was being *withdrawn* between two and three in the morning.”
[Emphasis added.]

Mr. Lovewell then made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 14, 2010 as amended, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Regarding the **Minutes of the Special Meeting of December 30, 2011**, the Board offered no comments or revisions. Mr. Lovewell made a motion to accept those minutes as written, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Nor were there any remarks concerning the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2011**. Mr. Lovewell made a motion to accept those minutes as written, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Turning to the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2011**, Mr. Lovewell argued that the Superintendent, who had written the minutes, had left out “an important statement... This is our first meeting at the new offices... Can we put that in?” The

Commissioner requested that the minutes be reformatted with the customary call-to-order description so that the inaugural nature of the meeting could be noted. Also, he asked that the signature page be properly arranged.

Lastly, the Commissioners considered the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2011**. There being no comments or amendments offered, Mr. Lovewell made a motion to accept those minutes as written, seconded by Chairman Burnham. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

**UPDATE: WINTUCKET CONTROL CENTER, INCLUDING PROGRESS ON
ON SCADA SYSTEM AND CHANGE ORDER NO. 6**

Mr. Domont reported that in preparation for the supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system installation, EII, Inc. had done a radio frequency (RF) path study the previous week. This had included testing the reliability of the signal at all of the Department's pump stations, including Meshacket. In all cases, the signal proved to be strong. The Superintendent continued that EII, Inc. would be sending a report. "It's not wireless, it's radio-wave," he explained, adding that this was better, since it was not dependent on the infrastructure of the telephone system.

Mr. Domont went on that the radio license application from the Federal Government would come in mid-May, and EII, Inc. would send materials for the Department's review. The expected date of completion was mid-June. EII, Inc. would set up the first installation, removing the telemetry at that site, then move on to the next station.

The Commissioners looked over Change Order No. 6, which encompassed the addition of the SCADA system installation to the Wintucket Control Center project. Said order was already signed and in effect as of April 6, 2011. To summarize, the original contract price had been \$1,359,712.00. Previous change orders (Nos. 1 – 5) had reduced this amount by \$159,814.81, bringing the total down to \$1,199,897.19. Change Order No. 6 increased the contract price by \$136,680.88, resulting in a new bottom-line figure of \$1,336,578.07, still below the original cost.

Mr. Lovewell expressed some concerns. He noted that per the contract of Paul E. Cote of Tate & Howard, Inc., the engineer was to review all shop drawings. Mr. Lovewell said he wanted to make sure the Commissioners got to see those drawings. And he did not believe, he noted, that the Nunnepog station had a water-level indicator. Thirdly, ought they make a trip to Duxbury to see a SCADA system?

The Superintendent responded that right here on the Island, the Towns of Tisbury and Oak Bluffs had SCADA systems that they could look at. Also, EII, Inc. had installed one

in Sandwich, if Mr. Lovewell was interested in seeing the handiwork of that particular contractor.

NEW BUSINESS [Continued]:

DISCUSSION/VOTE: EARMARK UNRESTRICTED CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT FUNDS FOR FORD EXPLORER.

Mr. Domont explained that he needed a vote of the Board to earmark \$30,722.00 of unrestricted funds in the Construction Account for the purchase of a 2011 or 2012 Ford Explorer. Chairman Burnham asked the Superintendent if he was happy with this replacement for his 1998 Explorer, and Mr. Domont answered that he was. The Superintendent provided some background on how the Department came to require this vote after some parrying with the Town Accountant and the Town Auditor.

Then Chairman Burnham made a motion to approve the earmarking of \$30,722.00 of unrestricted funds in the Edgartown Water Department's Construction Fund (Construct Water Mains, MUNIS Acct 6050 / 578000) for the purchase of a 2011 or 2012 Ford Explorer as per the quotation from MHQ dated March 28, 2011. Mr. Lovewell provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

REPORT: RESULTS OF SEMIANNUAL BILLING.

Admin Assistant Webster went over a document titled "Base Charge and Consumption Billing – Fiscal Years 2005 to Present: A Comparison." The Department had billed \$386,836.79 in base charges and \$117,776.00 in usage charges for the April 15, 2011 semiannual billing, she said. That brought the total billing in those two categories in Fiscal Year 2011 to \$1,374,476.12.

Mrs. Webster continued that as of April 22 the total billed *in all categories* in the current fiscal year was \$1,458,895.84. The FY11 operating budget was \$1,457,125.16. She pointed out that even though they could expect a June 30 accounts-receivable figure of \$25,000 to \$35,000, they were already about \$30,000.00 ahead in the collection of *FY10 charges* in the *current* year. So the difference would likely even out. In addition, two full months of billing opportunities remained.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION: MR. LOVEWELL'S MEMORANDUM RE: BETTERMENTS.

Mr. Lovewell wished to draw attention to his memorandum, dated March 26, 2011 and distributed to the Board, regarding his concerns about the Collector of Taxes' handling of the Edgartown Meadows betterments. According to Mr. Lovewell, there ought to be 88

lots being assessed and not 87. In addition, the figures in the report did not quite balance out as he thought they should. Has the subject of the betterments been put to bed now? inquired Chairman Burnham. Mr. Lovewell said yes.

SHURTLEFF LAND.

The subject of the future sale of the land on which the decommissioned Shurtleff Well and Pump Station sat was discussed briefly.

PAYROLL FORMS:

The Commissioners signed payroll forms.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman Burnham asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lovewell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the Chairman. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote, and Chairman Burnham adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN**

Robert L. Burnham, Chairman

John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner