

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 10, 2011**

**WATER COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Robert L. Burnham, Chairman  
Mr. William R. Erickson, Water Commissioners  
Mr. John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner

**EWD STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Shane A. Ben David, Foreman  
Mr. Fred R. Domont, Water Superintendent  
Mrs. Pia Webster, Administrative Assistant

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Barbara G. Shriber, Financial Advisory Committee

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Paul E. Cote, P.E., Tata & Howard, Incorporated

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

The Board of Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. at the offices of the Water Department located at Fifty-Eight Kavanagh Way, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:01 p.m., Chairman Robert L. Burnham called the meeting to order. The Chairman noted that the election of officers ought to have been on the agenda; and he requested that the matter be placed on the June agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Chairman and Water Commissioner John S. Lovewell considered the amendments to the **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2011**, as proposed by Mr. Lovewell in the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2011. *[See pages 3-4 of the latter minutes.]* Mr.

Lovewell made a motion to accept the Amended Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2011, seconded by the Chairman. Said motion carried by voice vote, with Messrs. Burnham and Lovewell voting aye and Mr. Erickson abstaining.

Mr. Lovewell then read into the record a sentence that had been added to the minutes on page 1, to wit: "The Board of Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held their Regular Meeting for the first time in their new office headquarters at Fifty-Eight Kavanagh Way, Edgartown, Massachusetts, on Tuesday, February 8, 2011." Mr. Lovewell then noted that the present meeting marked another first – the first meeting of the *full* Board at the new complex.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**UPDATE: WINTUCKET CONTROL CENTER, INCLUDING PAUL COTE OF TATA & HOWARD INCORPORATED ON THE SCADA SYSTEM.**

Regarding the Wintucket Control Center Project, engineer Paul E. Cote of Tata & Howard Incorporated reported that "SCADA is the active thing, besides a few punch list items," referring to the installation of the supervisory control and data acquisition system. He noted that a few glitches with the electric system had been worked out. Mike Leary of EII, Inc. was working on a bill of materials for the SCADA system, which included a user interfacing screen for each pump station. Once in hand – in about two weeks' time – Mr. Cote would send a copy to Superintendent Fred R. Domont and Foreman Shane A. Ben David for review. Then in June Mr. Leary would come to the Island to set up the operation.

When will it be ready? inquired Chairman Burnham. "It'll be up and running by the Fourth of July," replied Mr. Cote.

**UPDATE: PAUL COTE ON DWINSA DEP QUESTIONNAIRE.**

Mr. Cote highlighted the salient points of the eight-page drinking water infrastructure needs survey and assessment (DWINSA) questionnaire generated by the Mass DEP. Fifty different water systems in the Commonwealth had been asked to complete the questionnaire, he related, and Tata & Howard Incorporated had been hired by the State to conduct ten of them. He and the Superintendent had spent a good part of that afternoon working on it.

One aspect of this information gathering, continued Mr. Cote, was to look at where the water system would expand. "We did a kind of back-of-the-envelope approach to the system," he said, looking at where he and Mr. Domont would like to take the Department as the infrastructure aged and its output increased. "This is part of a *national* inventory

of infrastructure needs,” Mr. Cote said, that would in part determine the future allocation of Federal funds. “Looks like Boston will get most of it,” observed Chairman Burnham. Mr. Cote explained that the funds were distributed in the form of State Revolving Fund money.

The engineer related that he and Superintendent Domont had also spent some time earlier in the day working on the types of pipe in the system for transposition onto the distribution map Mr. Cote was preparing. When will the questionnaire be completed? asked Chairman Burnham. “It’s due the middle of June,” answered Mr. Cote.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: SCADA SYSTEM.**

Mr. Lovewell wished to return to the subject of the SCADA system. Regarding the shop drawings of the Duxbury installation in his possession, he wanted to know if the Commissioners would be seeing the same sort of drawings for the Department’s SCADA system before the work went forward. “Yes, in two weeks,” replied Mr. Cote.

Mr. Lovewell also pointed to an error in the drawings, specifically the indication of magnetic north. “The azimuth is wrong,” he said. In addition, Mr. Lovewell wanted to know about the meaning of the brown and green color scheme. “It’s an elevation thing,” said Mr. Cote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**REQUEST FOR REGULATION VARIANCE: CHRISTINE MacDOUGALL**

Mr. Domont reported that Christine MacDougall, owner of 11 Norton Street, had requested a variance from the Department’s policy of requiring prospective customers to install street main to the far bound of their lot. “She wants to save money,” noted the Superintendent, who showed on an assessor’s map the layout of Ms. MacDougall’s property. Mr. Domont emphasized that the Department strove to treat all applicants equally; to make an exception could set a regrettable precedent.

Ms. MacDougall argued that if the street main were brought only to the point of the on-property line, the other two lots at the end of Norton Street could still be served, Mr. Domont continued. So it would not be a case of a future customer having to pay for Ms. MacDougall’s savings. Perhaps evidence of financial hardship, suggested the Superintendent, could be a legitimate reason to consider this request.

Water Commissioner William R. Erickson argued that the Commissioners should “stick with our guidelines.” A discussion ensued. Mr. Domont recommended that he speak to Ms. MacDougall about talking to her neighbors; having others share the cost made sense.

How much would this cost? inquired Mr. Lovewell. “It isn’t a question of cost but of *policy*,” declared Chairman Burnham. The debate wound down.

Mr. Erickson made a motion to deny Christine MacDougall’s request for a variance from the Edgartown Water Department’s policy of requiring the installation of street main to the far bound of a customer’s lot, unless Ms. MacDougall could demonstrate financial hardship or some other compelling reason to forego such requirement. The Chairman provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

By this point – 4:18 p.m. – Barbara G. Shriber, the recently appointed Financial Advisory Committee Representative to the Board, had arrived at the meeting. Chairman Burnham introduced her to the others. Since Mrs. Shriber’s interests lay in the subjects Mr. Cote had reported on earlier, it is to those matters that the Board returned.

**OLD BUSINESS [Continued]:**

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: DWINSA DEP QUESTIONNAIRE.**

The Superintendent explained to Mrs. Shriber that Mr. Cote was there to work on the DWINSA program questionnaire with him. The Mass Department of Environmental Protection had hired his firm, Tata & Howard Incorporated, to come up with projects and to estimate costs for the next 20 years. “So this may help provide some of the information you’re interested in,” he said. Mr. Cote related that the information was not laid out over time the way a master plan was. “It’s just a list of needs foreseen coming up in the next 20 years,” he said.

Mrs. Shriber said that she was also a member of the Capital Programs Committee, which reported to the Financial Advisory Committee. The CPC, she related, had been asking the Departments to get all of that kind of information and to do projections through the year 2016.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION: SCADA SYSTEM.**

“It’s a reporting system?” asked Mrs. Shriber about the SCADA system installation that had been discussed earlier. “It stands for supervisory control and data acquisition system,” explained Mr. Cote. The Chairman noted, “It’s so employees can monitor the water system from different locations from computers and smartphones.” “We’re the only Water Department on the Island that *doesn’t* have one,” interjected the Superintendent. And they tap into it through their computers? wondered Mrs. Shriber. Right, said Mr. Domont.

The Superintendent related that the SCADA system provided for different levels of security and that it would allow employees to shut off a pump, for instance, from a

remote site. Also, on weekends instead of having to visit all the plants to check chemical levels, staff could do it in about eight minutes from home. “During the week I’m still a strong believer in doing stations physically,” stressed Mr. Domont, who added that the system would give them the ability to equip the stations with alarms that would directly alert the communication center and police and fire departments. The old telemetry system based at the Machacket office would be kept as a back-up, he added.

Responding to another query from Mrs. Shriber, the Superintendent reported that the cost of the system came to around \$125,000, noting that the price had gone down. “Like television, it’s gotten better and cheaper,” he said.

**NEW BUSINESS [Continued]:**

**USAGE CHARGE ABATEMENT REQUEST: MICHAEL TEIGER.**

Admin Assistant Pia Webster laid out the bare bones of the abatement request of Michael B. Teiger, M.D., of 33 Dark Woods Road (EWD Acct 021-614). Assistant Sheila Ben David had discovered an unusually high usage of 577,000 gallons for the six-month reading period ended April 1, 2011. She wrote to Dr. Teiger, for whom this is a second home, who called the office to explain that sometime in March a pipe had burst and caused extensive damage. This explained the high usage.

Admin Assistant Webster continued that she had asked Dr. Teiger to write a letter to the Commissioners explaining the circumstances and requesting an abatement of up to 30 percent of the usage fee of \$1,285.75. The letter was in their packet, as were figures for 10-, 20- and 30-percent abatements. Mrs. Webster had also included in the packets a history of all usage charge abatement requests, with their results.

**USAGE CHARGE ABATEMENT REQUEST: DEBORAH IRWIN.**

Deborah Irwin of 2 Llewellyn Way (EWD Acct 028-618) had a story similar to Dr. Teiger’s. Assistant Ben David had noticed a high usage of 311,000 gallons for the reading period ended April 1, 2011. The customer, responding to Mrs. Ben David’s letter, told Mrs. Webster that a leak had been found during that billing period. (This is a second home.) Ms. Irwin had written a letter requesting an abatement of 30 percent of the usage charge of \$687.25, which letter was in the Commissioners’ packets, as were figures for 10-, 20- and 30-percent abatements.

**DISCUSSION/VOTES: USAGE CHARGE ABATEMENT REQUESTS.**

Superintendent Domont commented that “in Edgartown we’re doing pretty good on abatements,” pointing out that the customers’ plumbing was, overall, in good order.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Erickson made a motion to grant Michael Teiger (EWD Acct 021-614) an abatement of 30 percent of his usage charge of \$1,285.75 for the billing period of October 16, 2010 through April 15, 2011, reducing the amount by \$385.73 and bringing the usage charge to \$900.02. Mr. Lovewell provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Then Mr. Erickson made a motion to grant Deborah Irwin (EWD Acct 028-618) an abatement of 30 percent of her usage charge of \$687.25 for the billing period of October 16, 2010 through April 15, 2011, reducing the amount by \$206.18 and bringing the usage charge to \$481.07. Mr. Lovewell provided a second, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**REPORT: ANNUAL FLUSHING.**

“The annual flushing is going really well,” reported Foreman Shane A. Ben David. “Over the past 12 years it goes better and better.” He said that the crew expected to finish flushing by Friday, after taking a break on Thursday for a class. Mr. Ben David described the flushing of a system the size of Edgartown’s in four days as “amazing.” “It once took weeks,” agreed Chairman Burnham. Directing his remark to Mrs. Shriber, the Superintendent noted that the only chemical added to the water was sodium hydroxide, for the purpose of lowering acidity.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**MWAA SEMINAR: LEAD AND COPPER CONTROL OPTIMIZATION.**

Mr. Domont reported that the Massachusetts Water Works Association would be offering a seminar on “Lead and Copper Corrosion Control Optimization” at the Water Department headquarters on Thursday, May 12. Chairman Burnham asked if he could attend, and the Superintendent said yes.

**SHURTLEFF LAND.**

So, the latest thinking is that we’re going to be out of Shurtleff by summer? inquired Mr. Lovewell, referring to the decommissioned Shurtleff Well and Pump Station. Yes, replied Mr. Domont.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Chairman Burnham asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Erickson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lovewell. The motion carried

unanimously by voice vote, and Chairman Burnham adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pia Webster  
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:  
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

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Robert L. Burnham, Chairman

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William R. Erickson, Water Commissioner

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John S. Lovewell, Water Commissioner