

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 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

EDGARTOWN SELECTMEN PRESENT:

Mr. Michael J. Donaroma, Selectman
Ms. Margaret O. Serpa, Selectmen
Mr. Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

OTHER TOWN EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

Ms. Pamela M. Dolby, Town Administrator
Ms. Kristy Rose, Assistant to the Town Administrator
Ms. Barbara Prada, Animal Control Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Steven Ewing, Poet Laureate Designate
Mr. Steven Myrick, *The Martha's Vineyard Times, et alii*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The Board of Water Commissioners of the Town of Edgartown held a Special Meeting within the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Edgartown on Monday, December 12, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fred B. Morgan, Jr. Meeting Room at the Peter O. Bettencourt Town Hall, 70 Main Street, Edgartown, Mass. At 4:00 p.m., Chairman Robert L. Burnham called the meeting to order.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM WATER COMMISSIONER.

Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman of the Edgartown Board of Selectmen, explained that the Selectmen and the Board of Water Commissioners were there to conduct the joint appointment of an interim Water Commissioner to replace William R. Erickson, who had recently retired after 17 years of service. Mr. Smadbeck continued that four candidates had submitted letters of interest to the Selectmen: Scott Ellis; James Kelleher; Ursula Prada; and William Waterway.

“Do you want to interview them?” Mr. Smadbeck asked the Water Commissioners. Chairman Burnham responded that chief among his requirements for a Commissioner was a person attuned to the issues surrounding the quality of water and the quantity of water. “Because we want to produce the best-quality water and we need to have enough of it,” he said, adding, “One individual is over-qualified in that respect... It appears to me, because of that, I would like to make the nomination of William Waterway...” “I agree,” said Water Commissioner John S. Lovewell. Chairman Burnham expanded on Mr. Waterway’s background as an expert on all things water-related and his Board’s concerns with regard to groundwater protection.

Mr. Smadbeck argued that he thought it also important to have “someone with some business background,” particularly in view of the recent USDA loan-expenditure discrepancies. *[See the Minutes of the Special Meetings of October 31, 2011 and November 14, 2011.]* Selectman Margaret O. Serpa said, “I think we have an equally qualified person in Jim Kelleher.” Ms. Serpa then nominated Mr. Kelleher, and Selectman Michael J. Donaroma concurred with the nomination.

Chairman Burnham remarked, “My only concern is, plumbers are in the industry...” He explained how in recent years a number of customers had been led by their plumbers to believe that the supposedly high acidity of Town water had caused pipe corrosion in their homes. However, testing had shown the pH of the water to be normal. In a few cases, though, the Water Department had paid for the repairs, more or less as a gesture of good will. So with that experience in mind, the Chairman was wary of having a plumber on the Board.

Additionally, Chairman Burnham pointed out that Mr. Waterway did in fact have considerable business experience.

Mr. Smadbeck reminded Chairman Burnham that the appointment was only for a few months, until the spring election. He then closed the nominations and took a voice vote.

William Waterway: 2 (Burnham, Lovewell)
James Kelleher: 3 (Donaroma, Serpa, Smadbeck)

Chairman Burnham objected to the appointment of Mr. Kelleher, reiterating much of what he had stated earlier. Ms. Serpa confirmed with EWD Admin Assistant Pia Webster that the Board of Water Commissioners was scheduled to meet the following afternoon at four. She recommended that Mr. Kelleher be notified “first thing” the next morning, to get sworn in by the Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairman Burnham adjourned the Regular Meeting at 4:11 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