

Mr. Fox opened the February 22, 2022 Board of Water Commissioners meeting at 6:30 PM and announced it as audio and video recorded. Messrs. Gary Yessaillian, Robert Lexander, Eric Merithew, John Miller and Jim Fox were in attendance and each announced his presence. Blake Lukis, Bob Marsh, Pauline Donaghue, Eileen Commene, Steve Locke, Stephanie Costa were also present. Michael Warner and Tim Corrigan of Weston and Sampson were present. Attorney Joe Emerson joined for executive session.

MINUTES

Mr. Fox asked for a motion for approving the minutes of February 8, 2022. Mr. Yessaillian put forward the motion and Mr. Merithew seconded it. Mr. Fox asked if there was any discussion and hearing none he called for a roll-call vote. Messrs. Yessaillian, Merithew, Lexander, Miller and Fox all voted Aye.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Financials and Warrants

Ms. Donaghue reported warrants numbered 13-15 for the period February 7-February 17, 2022 for \$532,408.00 and included a payment to Revoli construction for \$210,000.00 for Eastern Ave and Pine St water mains. The DocuSign signature cards should be completed by this Friday finalizing the banking transition.

**METER OPERATIONS, READING AND BILLING EVALUATION REPORT
WESTON AND SAMPSON ENGINEERS**

Tim Corrigan described the current metering system, over 13,000 mechanical displacement, compound and turbine meters with RF modules with drive-By AMR. The average age is 11 years old and 21% are over 15 years old. Currently 1200 meters are not communicating likely due to battery failure but resulting in estimated bills. Each month, 19 days are needed to read all the meters and three billing clerks handles the three billing sections. Historically, DWWD replaced about 1000 meters each year which allowed the 13-15 year life of meters which is optimum. This has not occurred in past few years because of Covid. Mr. Corrigan explained that most manufacturers offer a 20-year warranty with the last ten years on a prorated basis. The battery is integrated with the device but can be ordered as separate components. The warranty potentially can be negotiated during the procurement. Mr. Corrigan recommends that going forward, DWWD transition to a non-mechanical, solid state, ultrasonic type meter which can work with either drive by readings or with continuous receivers located at an interval of generally one per square mile. The cost for these meters has become quite competitive compared to traditional disc meters. These meters have accuracy for the long term and at low flow rates and are not subject to the same level of diminishing accuracy over time. There was a discussion about joining a consortium with other towns on meter purchases. Mr. Corrigan suggested a three-year purchasing contracting. He noted that each vendor has proprietary reading equipment. He said that the new equipment would reduce unaccounted for water by 2.5% annually which equates to \$340,000 of additional revenue each year. The transition to a fixed network could take place gradually and meters you’ve installed during the past five years are compatible with either drive by or fixed receivers. These standup data collection units roughly cover a square mile. Mr. Lukis

said that an average installation is \$28,500 and the variability comes into play based on proximity to electric power. Mr. Corrigan said he had estimated \$435,000 for a full standup data collection unit network installation. A full network system doesn't require any field meter reading and billing becomes a desktop exercise. Mr. Corrigan presented a production and milestone schedule through 2036.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Marsh is working on benefits and general insurance as well as the audit and garage permitting. The year-end financials have been posted to basecamp. He reviewed the variances and noted that the net loss was less than planned.

OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Locke noted that we are averaging 3.6 MGD. There was a main break yesterday on Dover Road. The White Lodge project is complete except for punch list items that Ardent group is working on.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lukis updated the Board on contracts he has signed totaling \$140,300 and those are on the updated spreadsheet that he has shared with the Board. Next, he asked for approval of COLA increases for nonunion staff. The majority are recommended for 2% and three employees have larger increases related to the market rates for these positions of 7% for the senior person and 5% for the two junior employees. Mr. Yessaillian made a motion to approve the wage increases per the presented schedule. Mr. Lexander seconded the motion. Mr. Fox asked for any further discussion and after several favorable comments asked for a roll call vote. Messrs. Yessaillian, Merithew, Miller, Lexander, and Fox all voted Aye.

Mr. Lukis reported that the MWRA approved additional purchase of water above the 73MG to blend water for reducing the total trihalomethanes. He noted that Governor Baker extended the ability to meet remote through July 2022. Mr. Marsh said that the technology is set up to hold hybrid meetings in the conference room now.

Mr. Miller asked about a meeting with Representative McMurtry and Ms. Commane noted that we are still waiting for his availability to attend.

Mr. Fox called for a motion to enter executive session to discuss union negotiation strategy and will return to open session to close the meeting. Mr. Yessaillian put the motion forward and Mr. Lexander seconded the motion. Mr. Fox called for a roll call vote and Messrs. Yessaillian, Lexander, Miller and Fox all voted Aye and stated that each was alone. Mr. Merithew's connection dropped during the vote.

Executive Session Minutes separately provided

Upon return to open session and noting that the next meeting would be held on March 15, Mr. Fox called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Yessaillian put that motion forward and Mr. Lexander seconded the motion. Mr. Fox called for a roll call vote and Messrs. Yessaillian, Merithew, Lexander, Miller and Fox all voted Aye.