

Mr. Fox opened the March 15, 2022 Board of Water Commissioners meeting at 6:30 PM and announced it as audio and video recorded. Messrs. Andrew Kara, 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, were also present.

## **MINUTES**

Mr. Fox asked for a motion for approving the minutes of February 22, 2022. Mr. Lexander 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. Kara, Merithew, Lexander, Miller and Fox all voted Aye.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Financials and Warrants**

Ms. Donaghue reported warrants numbered 16-19 for the period February 22-March 7 2022 for \$402,293.06. She next referred to the Treasurer Report and noted the unreconciled balances of \$7,794,974.00 as of 2/28/22 and the reconciled balances of \$7,278,560.00 as of 1/31/22. She said that a payment to Revoli for \$210,208.00 was reflected in warrant fifteen presented at the last meeting. She noted that the two bank accounts closed last year are no longer listed on the report.

## **BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Marsh said that he has posted two items on basecamp, one for the various health insurances and the other on the general insurances. He noted that no vote is required as these were in the approved operating budget. There is no price increase although the premiums increased by 5.9% and the budgeted increase was 7%. The increase in insured value is related to building and equipment improvements and two additional vehicles, he noted. The worker's comp premiums dropped considerably from last year. There is no increase overall from last year's insurance costs and it is below budget. With respect to health insurance, the district recommends staying with the same Tufts HMO 2000 after reviewing five plans and is covered in the budget. The premium increased 9.4% versus a 6% used in the budget. He noted that for the last few years, costs were constrained as we purchased plans with increasing levels of deductibles. The budget does cover the cost. He noted that the union must approve the plan as provided in the contract. Mr. Fox asked why the employees do not share in the 9.4% cost increase. Mr. Marsh recommended that switching plans be deferred until next year and he and Mr. Lukis are looking at other plans. Mr. Lukis added that the employee share of the premium, 25%, is increasing by 9.4%. The deductible payments, which is 100% by the District, is in the union contract. He noted that tight window after obtaining the new rates to sign onto a new plan.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT**

Mr. Locke reported that the Ford Explorer had sold for \$5800 on an auction site and that an employee had bought it. He noted that we are averaging 3.6 MGD, slightly over average, and there have been no main breaks. He said he is waiting for leak survey quotes. Lastly, he noted that we can move the \$849K in the MMDT account to another account and will completely close the MMDT account when the striping is done on the roads. Mr. Locke said that supply chain issues are affecting the availability of ductile iron pipe and thus the 2022 water main projects. The mixer and vent designs are done and Weston Sampson continues to work on the electrical design. Weston Sampson is getting the PFAS treatment study underway. Lastly, the Asset management project is progressing well and we will be training and testing shortly. He will be presenting the project with Weston and Sampson at the NEWWA show. Mr. Miller asked if polyethylene pipe is used in New England. Mr. Locke said that he did not see it in routine use. Mr. Lukis confirmed this and added that he had used it only for directional drill projects.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Lukis updated the Board on contracts he has signed and noted that there were none since the last meeting. Next he described the action on office furniture and the explanation that it is over budget but can be offset by deferring some other items in fund 30420. Since the change in the specific furniture item is over budget, he thought it best to seek a Board vote. Mr. Fox asked if someone would make a motion. Mr. Merithew made a motion that the Dedham-Westwood Water Commissioners vote to approve the purchase of office furniture for the Elm St location for \$70,221.54. Mr. Lexander seconded the motion. Mr. Fox asked for any further discussion and Mr. Miller asked for some specifics of what furniture is included. Mr. Lukis pointed to the office map that depicts the specific items. Mr. Fox asked for a roll call vote. Messrs. Kara, Merithew, Miller, Lexander, and Fox all voted Aye.

Mr. Lukis reported that the PFAS results had come in and the levels dropped at both Bridge St and White Lodge. The last sampling event occurred while Well 5 was offline and we have since sampled the individual wells and learned that Well 5 has the lowest PFAS levels of the White Lodge wells and that 3 and 4 are at the MCL. The concern is that at times when Well 5 must be shut down there might be difficulty meeting the PFAS MCL at the plant effluent. This will be examined thoroughly by the Weston Sampson evaluation.

Mr. Lukis said he has received a proposal from Capital Strategic solutions for the website redesign for under \$10k, they can revamp the site to include a banner across the top, set up tables and carousels for meeting agenda by year and include search tools, fillable forms, and be ADA accessible. Mr. Fox asked if customers could pay online and Mr. Lukis said that this is done now but will also be upgraded. This is not fully budgeted as only \$2500 was included for upgrades while this proposal is for a complete revamp. Mr. Merithew made a motion to redesign the dwwd.org website for \$10,000.00. Mr. Kara seconded the motion. Mr. Fox asked for a roll call vote. Messrs. Kara, Merithew, Miller, Lexander, and Fox all voted Aye.

Lastly, Mr. Lukis said that Boston Dynamics requested shooting a commercial in the filter room for \$15K. He asked if anyone had concerns with continued negotiations. A discussion ensued. Mr. Lukis will continue the discussion and report back at next meeting. Mr. Lexander asked if the basecamp system can be replaced and detailed the issues. Mr. Lukis said he had worked on some other system but noted that a newer version of basecamp is available and he would look into that as well.

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. Kara put the motion forward and Mr. Merithew seconded the motion. Mr. Fox called for a roll call vote and Messrs. Kara, Merithew, Lexander, Miller and Fox all voted Aye and stated that each was alone.

*Executive Session Minutes separately provided*

Upon return to open session Mr. Fox called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Kara 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.