

**TRI TOWN BOARD
Of Water Commissioners
Braintree, Holbrook, Randolph
DPW Administration Building, Pond Street**

MINUTES

January 29, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman, Joseph Sullivan, Mayor of the Town of Braintree; Bill Alexopolous, President of the Randolph Town Council; Robert Powilatis, Chairman of the Holbrook Board of Selectmen

IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Cummings, Holbrook Superintendent of Public Works/Holbrook-Randolph Joint Superintendent; David Zecchini, Superintendent of Randolph Public Works Dept.

ALSO PRESENT: Deborah Carlino, Recording Secretary; Mike Walsh and Anne Malenfant of Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.; Teno West, Esq. and Robert Knychalski, Esq. of Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West; Lou Dutton; Helen Gordon of Woodard & Curran; members of the press and public

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

The Board held a moment of silence for Peter Lynch who recently unexpectedly passed away. Thereafter, many in attendance spoke fondly about Mr. Lynch.

APPOINTMENTS:

■ **Members of the MWRA**

Mr. Laskey provided a handout entitled, "Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Presentation to the TriTown Board of Water Commissioners, The MWRA Option, Frederick Laskey, Executive Director, dated January 29, 2010", and provided a brief presentation to the Board.

~Why consider the MWRA as an option?

- High quality raw water
- State of the art water treatment
- Abundant water, with excess water to satisfy even the most conservative projections of demand
- Technical assistance programs
- Ability to serve TriTown
- Proposed streamlined regulatory process to join MWRA

~Abundant Reservoirs: Quabbin Reservoir and Wachusett Reservoir

~The MWRA recently modernized the entire water system

~The MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel was brought online in November, 2003

- This tunnel has allowed the shutdown of the Hultman Aqueduct for repair
- ~The Norumbega Covered Storage Facility
 - The tank was completed in May 2004
 - It provides 115 million gallons of storage for metropolitan Boston
- ~The Blue Hills Covered Storage
 - Blue Hills tanks are on line
 - Site work will be completed this spring
- ~The John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant
 - Complete in July, 2005
 - Treatment Processes:
 - ozonation for primary disinfection
 - corrosion control
 - chloramination for secondary disinfection
 - fluoridation
- ~Benefit of the new plant
 - Immediately noticeable taste and odor improvements
 - Dramatic reduction in disinfection by-products
 - Increased pathogen inactivation achievement
 - Elimination of multiple satellite treatment facilities
- ~Drinking Water Quality is Excellent
 - Each June the annual Water Quality Report is mailed to every household in the service area
 - Each year the water quality results are excellent: MWRA meets every standard for the 120 contaminants tested for
- ~MWRA Water Ranked 5th Nationally
- ~No Pharmaceuticals in MWRA Water Supply

There was a brief discussion re: the City of Reading who joined the MWRA about 2 years ago; Wilmington joined 1 year ago; and Stoughton about 1 year ago. The City of Reading was similar to this situation. They were in the process of constructing their own water treatment plant, and they realized it would be cost prohibitive. So, they decided to join to the MWRA as the numbers were less expensive.

The water is safe, it tastes great and it is monitored every day. There are no pharmaceutical compounds found in the water as it is tested frequently. They do add fluoride; they have access to their own full service laboratories to conduct their many tests.

Mr. Laskey noted that the demand for MWRA water in the City of Boston has dropped; it was found that water used in 2009 was the same amount as was used in 1900.

If all went with the paperwork and procedures the TriTown Board could be connected within two years. Currently, all three communities are connected to the sewage side of the MWRA.

Mr. Laskey advised that the MWRA has large pieces of construction equipment, which their members have access to. If the TriTown Board found that they needed to do large equipment, and did not have the equipment needed, instead of buying a large piece of equipment to be used minimally; the MWRA members can use their large pieces --- thereby this is a money saver in the long run.

There was a brief discussion by the Board as to pros/cons of joining the MWRA; independence issues, costs issues, etc. If the Board was to join the MWRA, there would be a dependency on their doing their job vs. the TriTown Board being responsible.

Mr. Laskey noted that any issue that may arise the MWRA has an Advisory Board that has members voted on by those who are apart of the MWRA membership; that listen to any issues and make determinations re: same. There are 11 members that are elected by the MWRA membership; 3 are appointed by the Governor. Currently, there are 61 members with 50 water and 11 sewer. It was further noted that the MWRA was repairing its infrastructure ongoing; and that they were 100% funded by the rate payers.

Rep. Joseph Driscoll arrived at the meeting after he finished his public hours at Town Hall. He was welcomed to the meeting by the Board. It was noted that Mr. Driscoll represented all three Towns.

Mayor Sullivan advised Mr. Laskey that the TriTown Board would make a determination to either join or move forward on its project. However, a public hearing would be held in each town prior to making any determination as to whether or not to join the MWRA.

Whereas the Board took a brief recess

**RE: Continued Business: -Owner's Representatives
CDM/Teno West, Esq.**

-Status and Discussion of Special Legislation

Mr. West provided correspondence dated January 26, 2010, which will be held to the next meeting as Mr. West had to leave the meeting.

Mike Walsh and Anne Malenfant of CDM spoke re: the memo dated January 29th, 2010. The Board was provided with another copy of the RFQ for the design/build project (the Board originally received same back in July, 2009). Mr. Walsh noted that the document being received by the Board today is the

same as what was received back in July. He would request that he Board review the final document so that he can have it ready to go out to bid when the legislation is approved.

Mr. Walsh noted that once the special legislation is approved, the RFQ will be ready to go out immediately, unless during the final review there are changes/comments that are made by the Board. Further, by the time the RFQ process deadline is completed, and then the RFP would be ready to go out for bid.

There was a brief discussion by the Board asking for clarification for the costs associated with the construction of the treatment plant as well as operations costs of same. Further, what would be the costs associated with the dredging. The Board would like to look at those costs vs. what was discussed today with the MWRA at the next meeting as it was stated that the Board needs to move forward on this project.

-Discussion re: Design/Build Project

Mr. Dutton was asked if he had heard from anything re: the dam safety ongoing project. He advised that he had not.

Ms. Malenfant stated that she spoke with Tyler Dunn this morning and he stated that the dwellers would be starting their borings once there is no more snow on the ground.

RE: Special Legislation – will be held to the next meeting.

RE: Ronald Cogliano, President and CEO of MCA (Merit Construction Alliance) of Kingston, Massachusetts was before the Board expressing PLA's and the potential water treatment plant project. Mr. Cogliano noted that PLA's stifle completion and that makes the costs of a project increase. He is not asking for the elimination of unions, he is asking that independent contractors get a fair shake.

-Procurement Policy Discussion

The Board reviewed the proposed procurement policy and discussed same.

“It is the policy of this joint water district to ensure that all hiring and procurement of goods and services are accomplished in a manner to obtain the highest quality possible in the most open competitive process at the lowest qualified responsible price. To that end, the Board will avoid sole source procurements, and instead, identify its needs; publically post, announce and advertise for expressions of interest; review qualifications, experience, and backgrounds of those expressing interest; interview potential choices; and select the responder who best can fulfill the needs of the function solicited; followed by negotiations to achieve the most economical rates or fee for service to accomplish the needs sought.”

Mr. Alexopolous noted that this is done on a daily basis for each of our communities, why is it necessary to act on this policy.

Mayor Sullivan noted that the procedures that we currently use helped to assemble a team to go through the RFQ, RFP, etc. We have a team that works well and is moving forward to get the treatment plant design build. All this has done in accordance to the law and all out in the open.

Mr. Powilatis questioned the hiring of the law firm and proposed project manager. There did not appear to be others asked/interviewed for the positions. The individuals were brought to the Board and voted on.

Mayor Sullivan noted that the individuals were brought to the Board based on their credentials, made presentations to the Board and were voted on by the Board.

Mr. Powilatis noted that there were no other individuals interviewed. Were the positions posted?

Mr. Alexopolous noted that Mr. West has been within the Board since last February/March, 2009; it does not make much sense to go backwards.

MINUTES:

The minutes for December 11, 2009, were voted by Mayor Sullivan only as the only other member present for that meeting, Mr. McElroy, has since passed away.

There was a brief discussion re: the bills paid by the Town's and the percentage paid by each town.

MOTION: by Mayor Sullivan to approve the minutes of December 11, 2009
SECOND: by Mayor Sullivan
VOTE: 1:0:2 (abstaining: Mr. Alexopolous; Mr. Powilatis)

MOTION: by Mr. Powilatis to approve the minutes of January 8, 2010 as amended
SECOND: by Mr. Alexopolous
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED

Items for Next Meeting:

- procurement policy
- payment of TriTown bills
- letter dated December 31, 2009, from Mr. Powilatis re: TriTown issues
- presentation by CDM re: O&M costs for new facility, current facility vs. joining MWRA; also dredging expenses

- Teno West's correspondence dated January 29, 2010
- status and discussion of Special Legislation
- Aquairia Co. – Jeff Hanson
- dam project update

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Friday, February 5, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.
Friday, February 26, 2010, at 9:00 a.m.

It was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Carlino
Recording Secretary

Robert Powilatis, Clerk