

## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT

The regular meeting of the Board was held on Monday August 27, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the offices of the District at 83 Phillips Road. Present were Commissioners Chairwoman Constance Leccese, Richard Lamusta, Superintendent Kenneth Burnham, Treasurer James Alexander, Water Foreman Nick Couris, District Counsel Attorney Christopher Casey and Christine Smallenberger, Clerk of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM.

Please refer to the sign-in sheet for attendees from the District.

Chairwoman Leccese made a motion to call the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. Chairman Leccese introduced the members of the board, water foreman and district counsel to the ratepayers.

Chairwoman Leccese addressed the ratepayers stating she wants to hear from everyone. Mrs. Rauseo, a resident who resides at the corner of Apple Hill began by expressing her displeasure of the strong smell of chlorine, it has occurred for 3+ years and has stained her clothing. Mrs. Rauseo believes it has to do with the ongoing issues with 15 Apple Hill Lane. She feels the development at 15 Apple Hill Lane is polluted and is going into our fields. Mrs. Rauseo presented pictures of discolored water given to her by an unknown neighbor. Superintendent Burnham replied that 15 Apple Hill has not impacted the quality of our water; the water on that property is run-off water and our water comes from under the ground. We took the plant at Phillips offline because the nitrates/nitrites were starting to climb. With respect to the chlorine, the DEP rules and regulations state we must put in 1 part per million and retain a residual at the end of the line. It gets tested daily. The state approved lab tests the water and sends the results to the state. Rain is surface water. The District has One (1) gravel pack well by the golf course; this was the one that came up with the false testing. We retested the well and the finished water tested negative.

Mrs. Lopez, a resident on West Tapley showed the board a discolored water sample taken from her home. Superintendent Burnham explained the discoloring comes naturally from the change in direction as the water goes back and forth. It is affected by the demands of the people, i.e., watering lawns. The iron and manganese has attached to the sides of the pipes. The District will do a high velocity flush in fall. We cannot flush at this time because people are still watering and the demand for water is high. The issues of discoloration in the upper Lowell, Chestnut, Cortland and Apple Hill areas is because of the iron and manganese. The District has changed the valving and the water is coming from different area. It takes a week to notice the change and we have noticed a change. The recent break in Glen Meadow caused a change in water flow.

Mrs. McLeod asked if connecting the pipes between Murphy Way and North Hill Drive would help with the flushing. The top of Lowell and Murphy Way is a dead end. Mrs. McLeod offered the easement by her yard but it is not ours.

Mrs. Lopez mentioned she called 5 years ago was told the water is perfectly normal. She has called a few more times in the last several years and was given many reasons and 5 years later we still don't have a plan. Mrs. Lopez said all her porcelain is stained and the trend that is claimed says it's your home.

Chairman Leccese explained there is a plan and we acknowledge there is an issue. The District has looked into the MWRA but we cannot do it. The other plan, which will take approximately 2 years, is building a treatment plan. This treatment plan will have to go out to the ratepayers to vote it through. The short range plan is the District will put a rebate system in place to help some people. The District will publish our findings for anyone who questions the safety of the water. Anyone who purchases a filter will be reimbursed up to \$100 for the filter and \$100 for installation by a licensed plumber. Last Thursday we had a meeting with our engineers to review what we want to construct as well as explore grant money to fund the treatment plan. We need more water by 2030.

Superintendent Burnham further explained that our engineers, Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) completed a package to submit to the state to receive funds for the project and the consensus is to build an iron/manganese plant. At the same time, there were other factions in town that caused us to look towards the MWRA. The MWRA was hoping to install a connection by Moulton drive that was scheduled to go to Peabody, Topsfield, Ipswich, and Wenham. We received a call today from the MWRA that this plan is now not going to happen. The City of Peabody said it was too expensive. The tie in to MWRA was going to be a low amount but now it will be around \$20 million. Because of this, the Board wants to push for the treatment plant and is hoping to get funding from the state. We have had meetings with CDM to design the iron/manganese plant. Once the plans are finalized, we will submit to the DEP to review the whole project but it takes time as we will also have to deal with the federal government. Mrs. McLeod said the people of the district have to vote for this plant. In 5 to 10 years we may want to revisit MWRA.

Mrs. Denehy said only people that have brown water have high manganese. Water Foreman Couris stated the District has five (5) distribution sites throughout the District that is tested for iron and manganese. We see a trend in upper Lowell Street that has elevated levels of manganese, yet none have broken the state maximum of .3 mcl and the 4 other sites have no iron and manganese. Some of the other sites have been discolored yet it's subjective. Mrs. Denehy stated she has had her water tested but the District has never seen those results. Mrs. Denehy said the samples the District has taken are samples of clear water. Water Foreman Couris explained we do not have control at your home. The sites we sample are mandated testing from the state and we are not finding anything. The results meet all the federal and state guidelines. We know we have to treat and the plant is a 2 year project. We are fast tracking it as much as we can.

A resident asked if there are any other towns with these issues and how did they solve the problem. Mrs. Denehy said those towns are replacing pipes. Superintendent Burnham said those pipes are unlined pipes that have built up growth (they call it a tuberculosis in the pipes). The pipes going to Lowell Street are all cement lined pipes. With cement lined pipes there is no growth. Superintendent Burnham further explained that the town of Topsfield has the same

problem and it took the voters 3 years to vote in the treatment plant. Topsfield's treatment plant is anticipated to go online in March.

Mrs. McLeod asked what type of filter is recommended. Superintendent Burnham said the residents can choose their own filter for suspended material.

A resident at 538 Lowell Street mentioned he had noticed a big clump of dirt in his washing machine. He wants to know how that happened. The District responded it happens randomly.

A resident asked if we could dig up mains and drill holes in the pipe to inspect or use a camera.

Superintendent Burnham mentioned the spring flushing had made a big difference so we want to flush again but we need the water. We are permitted to take only a specific amount of water.

One resident asked: Are you serious with the plan you proposed? Other communities are doing the same thing. The reports meet the state guidelines.

Another resident asked does this mean we don't have to pay our water bill? Chairwoman Leccese responded no.

The long term solution is the treatment plant. Another resident inquired as to the longevity of the treatment plant. The District responded the equipment and tanks will need regular inspections and maintenance.

A resident asked how much we are fining people for watering. Superintendent Burnham said \$100 per day and we collect about \$600 to \$800 per day. Resident responded: we should increase the ban. There is a limit on fining through a public utility law. It's not a money issue; it's people adhering to the ban. As soon as we are able, we will begin the high velocity flushing. We will see a major improvement and will flush again in the spring. It is unlikely we can flush in the winter months. We have a report that shows the process.

Karen Colby a resident on Cortland Lane mentioned May and June had more rain water than before and since it doesn't affect our artesian wells, going forward does that exacerbate the problem? Superintendent Burnham replied the town for the most part is built out and the residents vote if more land is to be developed. The Sagamore development can't get water from us unless the people in the District vote it into the District. Superintendent Burnham further explained we receive a print out of the flow in the river. The environmentalists passed laws requiring us after 3 days we can no longer pump water above a certain amount and thus we are limited.

Mrs. Lopez said that the communication from the District is a problem; we are being told its only 5 or 6 houses. Chairwoman Leccese explained to the residents that we have had some recent changes in administration. If you make a call, we will dispatch our technicians. There has been a change in the board and in the office and hopefully you will see improvements. Within the next few weeks we will issue a press release, and post information on our website.

Chairwoman Leccese further stated the residents have brought up valid points that the District will address.

Mr. Volpe asked then why won't you test the brown water? Superintendent Burnham responded that the state says the District is responsible for the water in the streets and we had a few residents that wanted us to take samples out of the toilet. Ms. Denehy said she had her water tested when it was discolored and asked what the protocol for testing is. She further stated it was a state approved lab that conducted the testing. Superintendent Burnham responded if you get brown water in your mixing valve flush it until it runs clean. In the interim, filters are available and the District recommends purchasing a suspended filter. A suggestion was mentioned about possibly adding another chemical to the water but that will only mask it. In talking with the state, the results indicate adding this chemical will not help solve anything.

A question was asked why not send our people to test the water? We responded that we have tested but individuals wanted us to test the toilet water; that is something we will not do. District Counsel, Attorney Christopher Casey mentioned the District has an obligation to bring water to the house and that's why the testing is done outside of the house. Superintendent Burnham said the solution is the filtration plant; in the interim residents should purchase a house filter.

A question was asked: what if the town doesn't approve the plant? The Board responded if the town doesn't vote to appropriate the funds there is no other solution.

A resident from Tophet believes the development at 15 Apple Hill Lane is the cause and now we have a horrible issue; it was never like this. They have clumps coming out of the shower. Superintendent Burnham responded that we have no control over 15 Apple Hill Lane. Superintendent Burnham said the water flows toward Chestnut St.

Another resident spoke up and said: we need to focus on the solution, this is unacceptable. When did all of this start to happen if people have been complaining for 5+ years? She further stated she has a newer house with pipes and the District is not taking care of us and giving us clean water. It is unacceptable; let's talk about the solution because 2 years is not okay. She further asked what the District is going to do for us. Superintendent Burnham said we will put more pressure on the designing phase and approval from the state. We had started this project in the spring. We are pushing the design process and will announce to the District when the plan goes to the state so everyone can put pressure on your state representative. The District is a separate entity that was set up in 1939 through the state legislature. A warrant to vote on the plant will be published at the Annual Meeting but if we get it fast tracked we will have a Special District Meeting and all the people in the District will vote. We will periodically update the District on our website. If the majority does not vote for the plant, we are studying the compatibility of the MWRA water to our water. The District would pay for the increase of the pumps and electricity for the South Lynnfield Water District. If we have to shut down and go to MWRA you would pay MWRA rates, which is Plan B. It is not an option to tie into Wakefield; their pipes have the tuberculosis in their pipes. Other communities have this problem as well.

Superintendent Burnham explained the filters are for iron and manganese. High levels of iron and manganese is dangerous and we do not have high levels. Superintendent Burnham pointed to the jar provided by Mrs. Lopez that throughout the meeting, the suspended material went to the bottom. The filter will take out this material.

Mrs. Lopez inquired: how do you determine that my house gets it, the next house doesn't but the one further down does? Superintendent Burnham responded when contractors build they dig a trench and sometimes they are up and down and bend, if they are not completely level there are dips and the material sits there and when disturbed it enters in your home. Mrs. Lopez asked who she can get to inspect the connection from the street to her home. Superintendent Burnham told Mrs. Lopez she has copper tubing in her home and would have to dig up her water service.

A resident asked when it comes time to vote for the treatment plant will the District express the urgency to support the plant. Superintendent Burnham responded yes, we intend to. This treatment plant is critical to the quality of the water for the entire district.

One resident stated: We need to help by getting on social media to let everyone know the importance of voting for the treatment plant. We need to work together.

Superintendent Burnham explained we have a report that shows the studied flows, pressures and plan developed by the engineers and our people. We take clean water and push it to the end of the system. We do individual streets. This process took 8 days. This last time we didn't use social media which was in part because the previous town administrator did not want us to use the reverse 911. We convinced town administration to use it. We will also utilize the town website and the District website as well.

Mr. Volpe still feels the District is hiding something. Ms. Denehy said the District had told her in past board minute meetings that the problem is in their home. Chairwoman Leccese said we are sorry for sins of the past and we are committed to working with you. We are here for the benefit of the ratepayers and will continue to work with you. We will get the information out on the website.

The residents of the District took their leave of the meeting.

Chairwoman Leccese asked District Counsel to craft a note to put on our website regarding the plan, flushing, and the numbers we get are within the state guidelines and are not a health hazard. Perhaps we can update this information quarterly or monthly to keep the residents up to date. In the Lynnfield community Facebook there is so much bad press. Attorney Casey and Water Foreman Couris will work on this. Attorney Casey asked the District to draft a fact sheet with a timeline of the plan.

The conversation turned to Private ways and service breaks. Water Foreman Couris asked Attorney Casey to review the policy and determine if it needs to be tweaked. How do we as a District define a private way? A lot has to do it with square feet. Many in the District do not know if they live on a private way. The District is relying on the Superintendent and the town's records which aren't completely accurate. For example, the majority of people on Old Pillings Pond, do not know it is a private way but on the town's listing it is considered a private street. Attorney Casey said we could possibly do a title search on each street if needed as the list isn't too big.

If there is a break, what is the liability? If the pipe is completely rotted is it on the district? The District doesn't mind fixing the break, we just need to clarify.

The factor that is holding us up in calling a special meeting is the cost. We are working with our engineers and once we get a rough estimate we can call a special district meeting to vote to appropriate the money. Superintendent Burnham said we should schedule a meeting in October.

If Lynnfield continues to build out 10% for the next 12 years you will need to look for more water. If we can maintain under a million we are good for the foreseeable future. We need to put a paragraph in the advertisement stating if we can sustain we will be fine. We can find more wells to use; we just can't take any more water than what we are permitted to take. Conservation is the key. If every home saves 10,000 gallons that is our savings. We produce water for \$6.25 a thousand and we sell for \$5 a thousand. We lose 1.25 a thousand.

Attorney Casey took his leave of the meeting at 8:25 PM.

The Board mentioned holding off on the rate increase until after the spring meeting.

Chairwoman Leccese mentioned sending the District's charter to Selectman Dalton but are in the process of consulting with our counsel. Superintendent Burnham replied we had sent Selectman Dalton a copy of the District's charter.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the prior meeting of August 13, 2018; the motion was seconded and approved.

The warrants were approved and signed.

The September board meetings will be held at 83 Phillips Road on September 10<sup>th</sup> and September 24<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,