



LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT WARRANT
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Regular Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. December 17, 2018

Date, time, place: The regular meeting of the Board was held on Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria at the Lynnfield Middle School at 505 Main Street, Lynnfield.

Present were: Commissioners Chairwoman Constance Leccese, Richard Lamusta, Superintendent Kenneth Burnham, Treasurer James Alexander, Water Foreman Nick Couris, and Clerk of the Board Christine Smallenberger.

Absent: None.

Also attending were: See sign-in sheet for ratepayers incorporated into the minutes hereto.

Additional attachments: Agenda, incorporated into the minutes hereto.

Next Regular Meeting: January 14, 2019 at 6:30pm

Adjourn: 7:23 PM.

Chairwoman Leccese called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Chairwoman Leccese began the meeting with a recap of the Special District Meeting outcome: one article passed for discovery for other water sources in the amount of \$250,000. The article for the feasibility study for the filtration plant was rejected and Article 2 and Article 3 were withdrawn. Resulting from that, we will have a study done by Tata & Howard and will begin looking for alternative sources of water while working with the Lynnfield Water District (LWD) to begin the process regarding other sources of water and the potential of buying MWRA from LWD to supplement our water source.

A ratepayer asked is LWD different from our water. Yes, LWD is different from our district as we provide our customers with well water. *A ratepayer asked how was Tata and Howard selected.* Chairwoman Leccese responded Tata and Howard are LWD's engineers and LWD picked the group to conduct the study.

Agenda Item 5. Operations-Superintendent's Report.

Chairwoman Leccese moved to the next item on the agenda regarding Kenneth Burnham's resignation as a Commissioner of the Board and his retirement. Chairwoman Leccese mentioned the District is awaiting word from counsel if we can wait until the April Annual Meeting or if we need to have a Special District Meeting regarding Mr. Burnham's replacement on the board. We should have the information at a January meeting. Superintendent Burnham explained, for continuity, whether we build a new plant or not, the person who takes his place should be able to follow from inception to completion and decide the best way to handle it. Putting off building the plant will push it out even more and who knows what will happen in the new few years whether we go MWRA; it is all up to the direction of the people. Continuity is important for the operation of the District. Superintendent Burnham had put 45 years in the District. Chairwoman Leccese mentioned at the same time, the District has a search committee tasked for finding a new superintendent, comprised of members of the water District and the remaining commissioners and we are waiting to determine if we need to add more members of the District to the committee. Resumes are coming in and after January 14th we will review them. We will have 2 positions to fill, a commissioner and a superintendent.

Agenda Item 2. Posting Agendas for Regular Board Meetings.

Agenda Item 3. January 2019 Meeting Dates and Locations.

Chairwoman Leccese mentioned the board meetings take place the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month. The agenda will be posted on the District's website and posted outside the District and someplace in town. We will not post in the paper unless it's a special meeting.

The January meetings are January 14th and 28th and will be at the middle school cafeteria at 6:30 PM.

Chairwoman Leccese further mentioned that some ratepayers are requesting information and when they make these requests there is a cost to the District and also to the ratepayer and by law there must be certain costs to the ratepayer. It may cost the District thousands of dollars so if you want to request information, please share the information with others while keeping in mind it costs the District money.

Agenda Item 6. New Business.

Chairwoman Leccese asked if there is any new business.

Agenda Item 7. Old Business.

Mrs. Rauseo said the District hasn't solved the problem of the brown water. Chairwoman Leccese said the District is working with the engineers and we may get a second opinion and may do other things to get to the bottom of it. Hopefully the new superintendent can get to the bottom of this. We will do everything we can possibly do, but the plant was voted down. We will still give them the \$200 rebate and will do what is in our control and further investigate to try to

eliminate the problem. *Mrs. Rauseo said the problem with the vote is the people didn't want to spend the \$200,000 for the study. Most of the people wanted to do something for the ratepayers affected.* Chairwoman Leccese said the people of the District spoke loud and clear and they didn't want to do that. It was borne out of the vote. *Mrs. Rauseo said there was a gentleman that said why can't we use the \$200,000 to help those people.* Chairwoman Leccese said they were throwing out a figure of \$2,000 for 40 houses and that's \$80,000. That is another thing that needs to be vetted and people are welcome to approach this at the April Annual Meeting. We are working with counsel and will discuss with him what is in everyone's best interest to vote a new board member and working on what the rules are moving forward. It will likely be voted at the April 1st Annual Meeting. In the meantime, we will flush again to mitigate the problem. Members of the District also have the option of the \$200 rebate. *Mrs. Rauseo said she had talked to some of her kids who are engineers who thought it was crazy, she had bought two Culligan filters and the plumber connected it. The filters were about \$30.* *Mrs. Rauseo said she will shut off her filters so they won't get ruined when we flush.* Chairwoman Leccese said the District has permission from the town to use electronic signage to get the notifications out there. We also publish the streets that are impacted. *Mr. Almy spoke up that the link on the District's website for the filters doesn't work.* Chairwoman Leccese said we will get that fixed. *A ratepayer asked when the study, already in place for \$50,000 will be finished.* Chairwoman Leccese said the study will be wrapped up soon. Superintendent Burnham said it will be complete within the next few months. The engineers, CDM Smith, will have a final report to us within the next 2 months. We do have milestones to have it completed. CDM is in discussion with the DEP and have a conference call scheduled with the results of their discussion with the DEP and Chairwoman Leccese will have a better idea of the date for completion and will confirm this and put it on the website.

Mr. Almy said we are mixing up 2 different reports. The documents he received today, where the District made an application to the state contained quite a bit of information that was summarized. There has to be engineering behind these cost estimates. The grant application could have served as a basis for discussion and no one has talked about this the last few months and this would have been ripe for discussion. Mr. Almy further asked when was this discussed because he didn't see it in the notes. Chairwoman Leccese responded we have discussed it and can get you the information. *Mr. Almy said the other report is water compatibility and has to do with MWRA supplies and his understanding is the other study is finishing the greensand filter plant.* The greensand plant will be discussed tomorrow with CDM, the other study is with Tata & Howard and was voted at last week's Special District Meeting.

What were the objectives of the \$50,000 study? We are trying to investigate the cause of the discolored water, alternative sources of water, what we can do for the whole process and potentially augmenting our supply. *A ratepayer remarked it sounds similar to what we voted on.* Chairwoman Leccese said what was voted on last week is an in-depth analysis on capacity and capability analysis. The other one was a superficial analysis.

Mrs. Rauseo asked is the other half if we went to 100% MWRA. Chairwoman Leccese said we vet the entire process including all, supplementing and drilling more wells. *Mrs. Rauseo asked will we get timeframes, the cost, pros and cons.* Chairwoman Leccese responded yes. The

existing study was done by CDM Smith. The new study will be completed by Tata & Howard and focusing on bringing water through the LWD and is the most economical and quickest option with a lot of pros. Superintendent Burnham said the District is interconnected with numerous communities but to get the water you have to go through numerous processes. They need to see if they can maintain their system and what we can take for water. Tata & Howard said it would be a year's study to see if they can pass water through their pipes to ours. We can do so in emergency situations such as breaks but that is an emergency situation. With Route 1, the City of Peabody's Coolidge Road Station caught fire and burned. In the interim, the Winona Street Station looked at MWRA but rebuilt Coolidge station instead. They were going to buy MWRA and that would have come up Route 1 (down Moulton Drive); the District had already discussed with MWRA of putting in a valve for in the future; the District was proactive. The Mayor of Peabody said it is much better to reinvest rebuilding the West Peabody system and invest in their own infrastructure. In the end, the pipeline won't be built. If we decide we want to go 100% then we would have to go back to the Saugus line. The LWD line already comes from Route 1. Their pumping station is on the northbound line. The potential for that line was going to go to Danvers, Topsfield and communities along the Ipswich River Basin. *A ratepayer who lives on West Tapley Road, Mrs. Mahoney, said her water is erratic with color. She knows that there is the goal of 65 gallons per person per day but if she is washing clothes and washes them 4 to 5 times to get them clean it impacts the 65 the gallons per day. Is there going to be an exemption for those who have to do that? Is there a possibility for the 48 families really affected. It is not an extreme amount of money and has had this problem for a long time. She had talked to Stefan about this issue and he said they have had it as well.* Chairwoman Leccese told her to call in the morning for the technicians to come to her home or call when you have the brown water. *Mrs. Mahoney said she sometimes doesn't see it and when she does it clears up. She is 3 houses from Glen Drive. She has called in the summer time when neighbors are watering their lawns and nothing seems to be done.* Commissioner Lamusta said we are deemed by the state how much we can charge per fine. *Mrs. Mahoney said if we fine \$100 the first fine and \$200 the other fine, it won't stop them.* Commissioner Lamusta said the more gallons you use the more you will pay and it is usually those who are watering. Chairwoman Leccese said you will see it in the consumption. Doing laundry won't drive the consumption up. *Mrs. Mahoney asked what are the health affects for drinking the water. She takes care of her grandkids.* Chairwoman Leccese said all the studies say it is an aesthetic issue and not a health issue. During the normal course there are no health issues. No one wants discolored water and we are working on it. We are going to seek another opinion to see what we can do to remedy this. *Mrs. Mahoney asked does this involve changing the filter as she is handicap and it takes a while for her to change the filter.* *Mrs. Rauseo said they advise changing it every 6 months but if I get brown water I change it.* Chairwoman Leccese said when our technicians come to the house, talk to them they are experts and have them get a sense of the layout of your house and what they can do to help. *Another ratepayer asked is there a system that is recommended to take out iron and manganese.* Chairwoman Leccese said we don't recommend a particular one but there are several online and vary in what they can do. There are some that are really sophisticated that will do a lot more than iron and manganese and the research you will have to do on your own. *Mrs. Rauseo said she got 2 Culligan filters and you can buy any kind of cartridge you want. One filters iron and manganese and chlorine*

and they are around \$30 to 40. As a band-aid it might be best solution. Chairwoman Leccese said it is a short-term solution.

The primary issue is brown water and the quantity part isn't the main issue. *Mrs. Rauseo said they were proposing filtration system for Glen Drive that provides 40% of our water. My issue is we need another water source by 2030 and we are limited by the Ipswich River Basin if we drill another one there.* Chairwoman Leccese said there was a report done.

A ratepayer asked how does the District account for the private wells pulling from the same aquifers. Commissioner Lamusta said we don't have control over the private wells. Some communities have laws regulating that. And yes it is the same source. *Mrs. Rauseo asked is a well that is 200 feet getting from same source.* Superintendent Burnham said we really don't know where the aquifers are, there is no way to know engineering-wise if they are the same. All our wells are in different aquifers and we do long term pump test with the DEP. We also measure ground water in the area. If they interfere, then you can't run the wells at the same time. Superintendent Burnham further explained once you start drilling, you might as well keep going. All wells he had drilled are down close to a 1,000 feet and most of ours are down 1,000 feet. We are fortunate enough to work with a well driller that kept his price level and we got a great bargain and drilled in the winter when they were looking for work. There was never a big increase in the budget. We have 8 production artesian wells. We have 2 gravel pack wells, 1 on Phillips Road and 1 on Main Street.

A ratepayer asked is there an estimate of the number of private wells. Superintendent Burnham said the board of health has that number and the wells have to be registered. If you have a private well the laws have changed so the District has to inspect the wells to check for cross connections. We can give you our list if you call the office.

A ratepayer said his neighbor has brown water and he gets it mostly during the summer, why would someone across the street have it but he doesn't. How is it possible to have a drastic difference and is there any reasoning to that. *Mrs. Mahoney said it is the same on my street.* Chairwoman Leccese said that is what we want to figure out and have the engineers figure it out. Superintendent Burnham said there are only a few streets in town that aren't looped or interconnected. Murphy Way and West Tapley aren't. Most of the streets are looped and there is a blow-off. Periodically there is a schedule where we run that dead-end water out. We did a hydraulic study of the system and located all GPS valves to come up with a flushing program rather than flush the dead ends of the system. You start at cleanest part and rip through the pipes out all the iron and manganese that attaches to the side of the pipe. By doing a high velocity flushing it rips it out. We saw a dramatic improvement this spring and fall. We know the pipes are getting clean but we don't know why certain services aren't. We are trying to figure this out. We are responsible for cleaning out the mains. We have cement-lined pipes. When Superintendent Burnham came onboard the District had changed to plastic pipes and eliminated coils 300 feet long and it doesn't adhere to it very much. It adheres to the cement lined pipes. In Apple Hill, it is less than 25 years old. Now that we are able to do the flushing, and we will flush again in the spring, it will clean it up more. The services are 6 feet down. *Mrs. Rauseo asked how one house has it and one doesn't, could it be connected to the house?*

Superintendent Burnham responded we don't have the answer. When they do the road to a certain grade, we make sure the pipe is fairly level and the pipe might dip down and get caught in there, there might be more material and maybe you are close to that. I don't even know if the engineers know. The more high velocity flushing we do the better it will be. *Mrs. Mahoney said she was told it was when wells switch from one to another.* Superintendent Burnham said we adjusted the pumps so they can't come on at the same time. They shut off and start up at different times. There is a gauge as the tank drops down the different pumps come on. We adjusted well pumps at Glen Drive. There was one with higher manganese and one with a lower level so we increased the lower level content and lowered the higher content one. Manganese is a natural product that comes through the rock. Mrs. Mahoney said I was told it was sediment in the past. Superintendent Burnham said I can't answer to what you were told.

Motion: Commissioner Lamusta made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Chairwoman Leccese seconded and the motion was approved

Respectfully submitted,