



LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT WARRANT
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Regular Board Meeting
7:30 pm August 5, 2020

Date, time, place: The regular meeting of the Board was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 7:30 PM via Virtual Zoom Meeting.

Present via Virtual: Commissioners Anders Youngren, Joseph Maney, Jack Adelson, Superintendent John Scenna, Treasurer James Alexander, and Clerk of the Board Christine Smallenberger

Absent: none

Also attending virtual: Richard Kosian, Kevin Prouty, Erin Denehy, Lisa Lopez, Maria Boustris, Ken Wakwe, Joe Maliawco, Mark Triffett, Al Buonopane Jr. and Mike Nelson from CDM Smith

Additional attachments: Agenda, incorporated into the minutes hereto.

Next Regular Meeting: August 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM - Virtual

Adjourn: 8:41 PM

Chairman Maney read the following statement:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the LCWD Board of Commissioners will be conducted via remote participation. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found within this posting below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so,

despite best efforts, we will post minutes of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The meeting is being recorded for the purpose of producing minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm.

1. Discussion & Execution of LWD Emergency Interconnect Agreement

In June, the District was in a water situation. The reason for tonight's meeting is due to demand exceeded supply in terms of water consumption. Our demand has been above average since March/April mainly due to the stay-at-home advisory and dry weather. We experienced historic consumption level in June which followed an early Spring period that produces daily consumption averages 10-15% higher than normal for similar time periods in the past. We were not the only community experiencing higher consumption. Many MWRA communities saw an increase in consumption at about a 15-20% average; some water districts including Andover experienced record production rates as well in June. During the month of June, LCWD storage tanks at Wing Road and Knoll Road were having difficulty sustaining storage and maintaining adequate levels required to maintain domestic pressure for plumbing. The issue also jeopardized fire suppression in our town. Because it was June and the majority of summer was ahead of us, we had to explore options to make changes that could supplement our system. LCWD filed for an emergency order with the DEP. This filing allows us to use Station 1. Station 1 was the original pump station in the main building on Phillips Road and was shut down in 2017 due to rising nitrate levels that were starting to approach the upper allowable levels. In April, we started running Station 1 and found high nitrate levels not to be the case. We continued running and testing the Station throughout the Spring. We filed a request to use station 1 for the balance of the summer. The DEP approved our request initially for 10 days, subsequently for 30 days and we just received our second 30-day approval. Since using station 1, our tanks and fire suppression stabilized. In June, we also requested the DEP to allow us to bring in MWRA water on emergency basis. We spoke to Lynnfield Water District (LWD) and contracted to install temporary bypass piping connecting their last hydrant and the first hydrant in the LCWD system. We were trying to increase our ability to supply more water over the summer. This evening before the board is 2 agreements. One with the MWRA to allow us to use emergency water from LWD at 110% of their rate. The second agreement is with LWD; LWD will charge us \$0.55 per thousand in addition to the charge from MWRA and any direct expenses they may incur with this agreement. Executing these agreements creates the possibility to supplement our system with MWRA water once DEP gives us full approval. DEP has encouraged this but is still analyzing the water quality blending report which is studying possible conditions which may arise in the when LWD water (MWRA surface water) blends with LCWD groundwater water. There are two different treatment

processes in place with the two sources. We use chlorine to treat and have a lower pH; and LWD (MWRA) use chloramines and maintain a higher pH. CDM has collected and reviewed a series of prior tests from both Districts and prepared a report for submission to the DEP. We hope the report will be accepted by the DEP this week. We cannot bring in water without these agreements executed. Chlorine and chloramines are similar compounds but chloramines last longer as a residual in the system and we need to make sure they blend correctly. Another requirement prior to supplementing with MWRA water is to notify system users because of the possible effects especially for those on dialysis or to those that tend to pets. The CDM blending analysis is on file in the office. The report recommends that no additional chemicals are needed at the point of interconnection. CDM indicated approval could happen by end of this week. This would line up with the need to stop using Station 1. Mr. Scenna stated that the DEP will not allow for the continued use of Station 1 so if there is a need to supplement, the MWRA source acquired from LWD is the only possibility left,

Mrs. Lopez was looking for clarification for emergency purposes. Superintendent Scenna said the only way this emergency order is approved is when you can statistically demonstrate with data that your system is in or could get into an emergency status. The conditions with the order are only valid so long as you remain in an emergency status. If we drop from a level 5 restriction level, the emergency order will cease and we cannot use this connection to supplement. The intent is to supplement the water system only when all other options, including conservation through restrictions, are exhausted. However, Mr. Scenna stated that he is continuing to make the most of this situation in order to demonstrate to the DEP that LCWD has the ability to bring in other water sources, both with in house infrastructure and by supplementing with outside sources. We are recording and sending reports to the DEP on a weekly basis to bring about long-term improvements.

He then spoke about restrictions and how although going to another water restriction level is the discretion of the superintendent with support from the board, it is based on data and statistics including customer use and stream line levels of the Ipswich River. Every 2 weeks LCWD needs to provide consumption reports to the DEP so the data and statistics in order to demonstrate and confirm levels required to support the emergency; we were able to show the DEP a differential to our daily average thus opening the door to the emergency order. Mr. Prouty asked about the additional costs associated with the emergency order. To date, we have spent about \$20,000 including CDM studies and analysis. Mr Scenna stated that most of the CDM work, however, was planned for sometime in the coming year because it was needed in planning for long-term capital projects with bringing in MWRA water. These costs would have been incurred regardless, the summer demand v. supply concerns just expedited the scheduling and execution of that work. The emergency order has an end date of 6 months. As long as the order is in effect, you cannot drop below a level 5 water restriction. The DEP will put a cease and desist if the nitrate levels rise in Station 1. Every day we test the nitrate levels at

Station 1 with the results trending down; this shows we can run station 1 in the summertime. It is a good sign for the future, and we hope to petition the DEP for permanent seasonal use of Station 1 in the future due to the performance over this period.

2. Discussion & Execution of MWRA Emergency Supplemental Water Agreement
LWD has a letter agreement proposed for execution with LCWD. It includes a list of several conditions: including that we will pay LWD an additional \$0.55 per thousand gallons through their meter. (The interconnection has a silver box with a meter and backflow in it that will monitor use.) MWRA will bill the District directly based on that metered use as well. LWD has the ability to supply LCWD with up to 100 gallons per minute. We will pay per the thousand gallons and any direct expenses and any overtime expenses LWD incurs. Once the agreement has been approved, it is Superintendent Scenna's intent to use, implement and supplement our water source when demand requires. We need to do our due diligence to get this up and running and be prepared in the event demand exceeds supply. Superintendent Scenna reminded everyone that this can only be used when demand exceeds our ability to supply within our own infrastructure. Last week we did field testing on LWD water. DEP indicated the blending analysis was complete and acceptable and that final approval was imminent. We reviewed the data and there were no red flags. We hope to hear back by next Friday and hope this will yield some useful data on how the water will mix and how things will work.

Motion: a motion was made to approve the emergency agreement with LWD.

Second: the motion was seconded and the motion was approved by all saying aye in the affirmative.

We had several calls with MWRA; this emergency agreement is allowed by their legislature and is within their by-laws and we are not the only community they have provided water to on an emergency basis. The process outlines that the first time you draw water under these conditions, the end user pays 110% of the retail rate and the second time it will be a little higher. They have been good to work with. We will pay MWRA directly. They want us to call them when the water is turned on and read the LWD meter and bill us accordingly. Commissioner Youngren asked what are long term impacts if we become a MWRA customer? Superintendent Scenna emphasized that this is an emergency agreement that ends on October 31st. If we were to do this in a permanent manner we would have to be accepted as a member of the MWRA community. There is a different, substantial process outlined for that which requires at least two years. Once accepted as a permanent member, MWRA will assess LCWD an initiation fee based on the actual usage after 3 years. It is around \$4.4 million per million gallons used per year. The permitting component includes an interbasin transfer act, which is a significant effort in which the

MWRA supports you with and is a permitting effort through the DEP; all communities joining must go through this. The Town of Bedford is going through this right now.

Motion: a motion was made to approve the MWRA emergency supplemental water agreement.

Second: the motion was seconded and the motion was approved by all saying aye in the affirmative.

Note that as required, a letter will be mailed out to every customer notifying them of the potential MWRA use and we will send out a code red notification 48 hours prior to the connection being turned on. With a code red we only get people who have signed up whereas a direct mailing gets to every customer to inform them of the situation of and the possible minimal impacts.

3. Approval of LWD Interconnect Study Reimbursement Request -

Back in December 2018, before anyone here was on the board, the district and LWD started a process to see what the options were for supplementing LCWD with MWRA water through the LWD system. District members of the LCWD agreed to fund a study up to \$100,000 for Tata and Howard to determine the feasibility to connect to LWD on a permanent basis. The LCWD had paid one-third of this sum back in December 2018, prior to the start of work; and according to the agreement we were to pay another third halfway through the study and the remaining third when the study has been completed. We received documentation from LWD that approximately \$55,000 has been spent. We owe them \$19,755.32 to cover what they have expended. Right now, Superintendent Scenna is recommending that we take a pause in order to confirm that they are the right partner for the future. After discussion with the board, we requested invoices to show their completed work to date so we can reimburse them. We are asking LWD to pause their work and to not expend any additional funds until we know where we want to go. We have studied everything and it's a matter of executing and no need to further study anything until we know the direction we want to go. Superintendent Scenna feels that it is prudent to reimburse them for their expenditures to date but doesn't feel the original letter which forwarded them payments in one third amounts should be completed until we understand the scope of future work. He wants to only reimburse the expenses to date and then discuss and agree how best to move forward. Once we decide what we want to do, we can render a new agreement going forward. Commissioner Youngren is concerned and wants to have copies of their engineering studies and requested the superintendent to ask for copies of all their records. Superintendent Scenna agrees with Commissioner Youngren. CDM and Superintendent Scenna have seen some deliverables and will make sure these deliverables are on file.

Motion: a motion was made to pay LWD \$19,755.32 for work completed on the interconnection study.

Second: the motion was seconded and the motion was approved by all saying aye in the affirmative.

4. Discussion concerning potential of Interconnections with other Systems

At the annual meeting we presented various options on what we studied. Some included infrastructure rehabilitation, some included the direction we want to go in regarding infrastructure upgrades and laid out our capital program. In total Five (5) options were presented with each option having options within them. The middle of the 3 options (options 3, 4, 5) included bringing in supplemental water from the MWRA. Based on the annual meeting, Superintendent Scenna recommends that we spend a few months confirming and studying to make sure we partner with the right water entity to bring in supplemental water from an outside source. Peabody is not an option as they are looking at their own options. LWD has been studied. Mike Nelson and Superintendent Scenna met with the Town of Andover. Andover pumps water from the Merrimac river and supplies North Reading. We are continuing to look at whether Andover could provide us with water through the Town of North Reading; North Reading is entertaining the possibility and we need to continue researching this option. The third option is Wakefield, their DPW runs the water system, 80% is MWRA and 15-20% is supplemented by their own pumping and treating. We had lots of discussions with Environmental Partners and Wakefield public works. Mr. Scenna discussed a \$7,200 proposal from Wakefield for Environmental Partners. He put them on a very strict and fast timeline. Wakefield agreed to meet our timeline of 3 weeks to get information back to our district this fall. Wakefield's consultant will look at what it takes to provide water at 2 requested volumes, 250 gpm (25% of our system) and 580 gpm (50% of our system). The location for any interconnection will be in and around Bay State Road and Main Street. The most complicated part of any new connection with Wakefield is pipe that had to be installed within the underpass on Main Street with Interstate 95, but there is water pipe there. We want to have a recommendation to the board in September and reduce to 2 options in October and back to the district with costs and timeline by November. Superintendent wants CDM to exhaust all options for supplemental water. He feels that Andover water is compatible yet is a much more complex delivery method. Wakefield is MWRA and is a willing supplier and has direct route. We reviewed the proposal from the Wakefield consultant and found it reasonable. The agreement also may provide Wakefield with the ability to address some water system challenges in that area of their system in town as well. Commissioner Youngren asked what the cost is to the district besides the \$7,200 study. Wakefield is looking to only cover their outside expenses to date without markout. Commissioner Youngren asked what are the long-term benefits for bringing in additional water supplies. Superintendent Scenna responded it would eliminate the

situation we were placed in June of this year. We would have the ability to supply the water we need and allow us to rest our infrastructure, take some of our infrastructure offline and make improvements to our infrastructure. It creates a backup plan and could give us flexibility to solving some of our other issues Within the existing infrastructure. It also will present an opportunity to not need to restrict summer restrictions as aggressively, a situation in which several customers have expressed frustration with as they want to water throughout the summer and maintain their property.

Mrs. Lopez asked does all the water gets mixed in together as there are some people in town don't want MWRA water. Mike Nelson explained that if you are in area adjacent to the connection, you will get that water, the further you get away from the source the water will blend. Time of day affects it and demand affects it. There is a zone of influence where the water comes, close to the consumer tap you will get 100% of it. This will all be analyzed and studied and can be demonstrated and explained.

Motion: a motion was made to approve \$7200 to Wakefield Public Works for a study with Environmental Partners.

Second: the motion was seconded and the motion was approved by all saying aye in the affirmative.

5. Any other items reasonably unexpected by the Chair

Mrs. Lopez has a question with respect to the folks in the areas that are experiencing brown water. Mrs. Lopez now has a filter so she doesn't experience the discoloration anymore. Her question is regarding the timeline for a vote to the district. No one pays attention until you ask for money. Mrs. Lopez is curious about the timelines and for lack of a better word a campaign to get the information out. The board is sensitive to how and when we get the information out and when we ask for people's support. People at these meetings are asked to continue to spread the word. This is a standing agenda item until a decision is made. When we speak of having another meeting in November, it isn't necessarily to vote on a project and would be non-binding. This would determine which options we will continue to study through the winter and have other meetings to hash it out, discuss and budget for fiscal year 2022. The earliest a vote would happen would be in April 2022 during the annual meeting. We don't intend to rush and want to get information out; we intend to get the information out slowly and repeatedly. November is an internal goal to get a sense of what the district wants to see and support moving forward. Chairman Maney wants to hear people in the district take this as serious as the board does. The board can't vote to appropriate millions of dollars, the people in the district need to vote. Dan Tomasello from Lynnfield

Villager is coming to press on August 18th to shed light on these issues and provide a detailed update. We need the 15% of our customers affected by poor water to mobilize folks to offset the folks who just want to water their grass. This is a top priority for the board and the superintendent. We just need to educate the people in the district.

The board has approved the warrant for the new truck's final invoice via email.

Motion: a motion was made to propose a 2% cost of living increase to the superintendent's pay on the anniversary of Superintendent Scenna's employment.

Second: the motion was seconded and the motion was approved by all saying aye in the affirmative.

Motion to adjourn at 8:41 pm

Respectfully submitted,