

**MINUTES
HARWICH WATER DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF WATER/WASTEWATER COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Friday February 28, 2025
9:00 a.m.

WATER COMMISSIONER'S PRESENT: Chair Noreen Donahue, Vice Chair Allin Thompson, Commissioner Bob Young, Commissioner Judith Underwood (via phone), Commissioner John Gough

OTHERS PRESENT: Superintendent Jason Trepanier, Administrative Assistant Tracey Alves, Dan Pelletier (via phone), Resident Scott Norum, Resident Robert Clinton

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Donahue called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. This meeting was called as a special meeting so it is a one topic meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of water quality in the Great Sand Lakes area related to Well Field #1 and Well Field #2 and any other related water quality concerns

Many people know that it is the time of year when warrants and projects are being designed and the projections for sewerage the Great Sand Lakes area is on the table for discussion this year.

At last Monday's Select Board meeting, the Great Sand Lakes Board member Ann Frechette did a very nice presentation in support of sewerage the Great Sand Lakes area however, in the presentation at one point she made a statement about how many houses would be affected. Her answer was that it was not just the 150 houses that would be sewerage (as she pointed to a map of the well fields that we have down in that area) but that it's actually 10,000 homes and that every home in our Town could be affected by the degradation in those ponds. Her assertion was that any continued degradation to the Great Sand Lake ponds could travel to our collection wells and could thereby have a bad result for the entire drinking water supply in the Town.

When the Board heard that, this meeting was called because the Board of Water and Wastewater Commissioners and the Water Department don't feel that that was a true representation of the facts. We have been invited on Monday night for the Superintendent to give a statement of our representation of the facts.

The Superintendent Trepanier and our Consultant Dan Pelletier worked on a letter for presentation Monday night to give our representation of the facts.

Commissioner Young commended the letter and recommended that the letter lead with, "Harwich's drinking water remains safe and high quality." Residents should be assured that our drinking water is continuously monitored and meets all federal and state safety standards and there is no cause for alarm and to alert 10,000 people. We assure the public that the drinking water is safe and drinkable and will remain that way.

Mr. Clinton commented that he thinks what Ann was trying to get across was that there is a potential for the quality of the pond water out there to reach down to the water table and affect the drinking water ultimately and that he doesn't think she was saying that there is a problem now. Chair Donahue responded that she has been supporting wastewater for 15 years and let's say that years from now, we ever had a problem near our wells, we wouldn't sewer 3 miles North! If we ever had a problem that initiated from the Great Sand Lake area, we would sewer near our wells, not 3 miles away to catch the drift down affect.

If the Great Sand Lakes project wants to go forward then that is a viable argument on its own but it can't be justified by claims of potential harm to our drinking water!

Mr. Norum asked a few questions that were not in the Board's purview to answer.

The Board's only statement that we will continue to make to the public is if you want to consider this project by all means consider it, but don't consider it on the grounds that there is potential harm to our drinking water.

Superintendent Trepanier commented that we are very transparent about our water quality. Jason will attend next week's Select Board meeting to get our message across as well as send out notification to the Cape Cod Chronicle.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURN

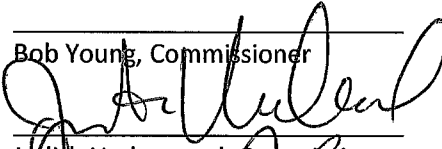
Chair Donahue entertained a motion to adjourn at 9:28am. Vice Chair Thompson moved the motion with a second by Clerk Young. All in favor; 5-0-0.

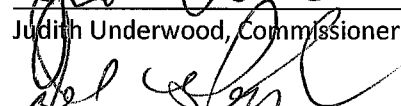

Noreen Donahue, Chair

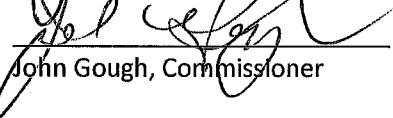

Allin Thompson, Vice Chair


Jason Trepanier, Superintendent

Tracey Alves, Board Secretary


Bob Young, Commissioner


Judith Underwood, Commissioner


John Gough, Commissioner