

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Plainview Water District was held in the District office on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

Present: Joel R. Kessler, Chairman
Andrew N. Bader, Treasurer
Marc B. Laykind, Secretary
Richard W. Tobin, Superintendent
Maria Albano, Clerk to the Board
Michael Ingham, Attorney
James Neri, Engineer
Paul Ponturo, H2M

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Commissioner Kessler opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence and lab data were reviewed in the Board update.

The Board approved and signed board meeting minutes.

MICHAEL INGHAM'S REPORT – ATTORNEY:

Attorney Ingham reported that with regard to the cross-connection control program he spoke to several consumers regarding compliance with the District's backflow prevention program. Attorney Ingham listed the consumers he spoke with. Attorney Ingham spent a good amount of time discussing the backflow program with each individual. Attorney Ingham explained that the Nassau County Dept. of Health is trying to achieve one hundred (100%) percent compliance with the backflow prevention program. In the past, while the District has not been overly aggressive, the program has been stepped up and we are receiving better compliance. In the spring we mailed out 5,300 first notices. We achieved compliance in the spring. By October over 2,000 people had achieved compliance. In October sent out another notice alerting residents to get their backflow done by the end of the year. That notice was sent out to 3,700 people. The District will be able to compute the full compliance at the District's December meeting. People appreciate that it is important to get the backflow program in compliance. Many people comply and those who don't comply jeopardize their neighbors. Commissioner Laykind reported that many of the residents were upset with the letter, that the letter was too stringent. Obviously, that letter was not written by counsel on his own, it was authorized by the Board. I will take responsibility for the letter in part if residents felt it was too strongly worded. Attorney Ingham reported that a good number of people had indicated that they did not receive the first notice. These letters could have certainly been lost in the mail. Commissioner Laykind stated that the purpose of those letters was not to collect \$100.00. The purpose of the letters is to make sure we do not collect \$100.00 from anybody. We don't want that money, we want compliance. On behalf of the Board if the letter was found to be offensive to anybody we

apologize. The thought was when you get a letter from a lawyer people comply with the Nassau County Dept. of Health regulation we are merely enforcing.

JAMES NERI'S REPORT – ENGINEER:

Engineer Neri updated the Board as it relates to Plant No. 6. Engineer Neri reported that Atlantic Wells is in the process of close out.

Engineer Neri reported that H2M is working with the District to schedule cleaning of Plant 7 tank. It will be several weeks before the repair is done.

Engineer Neri reported that tank inspections need to be scheduled.

Engineer Neri reported that he has not received any comments back from Nassau County Dept. of Health as it relates to Country Pointe.

Engineer Neri reported that maintenance contracts are being worked on for Supt. Tobin's review. Bid dates to be requested from the Board.

RICHARD W. TOBIN'S REPORT – SUPERINTENDENT:

Supt. Tobin provided the Board with draft newsletter articles for the Board's review and comments.

Supt. Tobin reported that an e-mail was received from a consumer stating that he had sampled his water and had results for nitrates as high as 80 ppm. The District's highest well is at 14 ppm, however that well is blended with another well of lower nitrate levels to meet the 10 MCL. Supt. Tobin stated that the District will be contacting the consumer who is testing his own water to discuss his methods. The District is in the 6 to 8 range going out to the distribution system.

MARIA ALBANO'S REPORT – CLERK TO THE BOARD:

Vendor check nos. 43932 through 43946 dated October 18, 2016 in the amount of \$203,497.97 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Board.

Ms. Albano requested the Board review and approve the Monthly Treasurer's Reports ending August 31, 2016 and September 30, 2016.

Motion made by Commissioner Kessler, seconded by Commissioner Bader, the below stated resolution was adopted unanimously:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approves the Monthly Treasurer's Reports ending August 31, 2016 and September 30, 2016.

Ms. Albano reported that LIWC Drinking Water Symposium is scheduled for Friday, October 28th from 7:30 am to 12 noon.

Ms. Albano inquired if the Board was interested in holding its annual Toys for Tots Toy Drive. After discussion, the Board instructed Ms. Albano to once again make arrangements for the Toys for Tots Toy Drive.

Ms. Albano reported that with regard to the Water Commissioner election, the District will be using the new DS200 voting machines. In that connection, the poll workers must be certified in operating the machines.

Ms. Albano reported that quotes for folding/ mailing the District's invoices and purchasing billing supplies is due on Friday, October 28, 2016.

Ms. Albano reported that the LIWC training session is scheduled for Monday, October 31st at 6:30 pm.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

The board meetings for November 2016 were scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, November 1st at 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, November 8th – No Meeting
- Tuesday, November 15th at 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, November 22nd at 5:30 pm
- Tuesday, November 29th – No Meeting

At 6:20 pm the Board dispensed with the regular of business to receive comments from the community residents as it relates to pinhole leaks.

Evy Rothman raised concerns regarding pinhole leaks that are affecting the homes in Plainview/Old Bethpage. Ms. Rothman recognized Ms. Blezow-Yulet for raising awareness of the pinhole leak problem. Ms. Rothman requested that the board minutes be on the District's website.

A resident asked about pinhole leaks.

Engineer Neri reported that AWWA is the agency which governs a lot of what is done as far as regulatory recommendations. The District's pH is 7.5 to 8.5 at the highest end and the alkalinity is in the high single digits and the low 10's. The District has, at each of its sites, continuous monitors that measures the pH and chlorine levels. Multiple times during the week, District personnel visit distribution locations randomly through the District and spot check the pH and chlorine levels. Engineer Neri indicated that pinhole leaks is something that has shown up nationwide and at neighboring water districts.

Commissioner Laykind reported that pinhole leaks are happening in neighboring districts. The fact that the community has attended this board meeting and that you speak with each other on line is a good thing and has brought it to our attention, causing us to initiate an investigation.

Rita Wein reported that her home was built in 1980 and she has had many pinhole leaks.

Commissioner Laykind responded that the Hamlet attended a board meeting because they are experiencing pinhole leaks. They brought an electrician with them who stated that they had the water sampled and agreed the water is fine, passing all tests. The pH is good. However, the electrician determined there is electrical current running through the ground hitting the water mains and it is putting electrical current on your pipes which is causing the pipes to corrode prematurely. One solution might be correcting an improper electric ground. We have on record only documented 15 pinhole claims. Commissioner Laykind stated that the District knows there are more but only 15 people have come forth. Commissioner Laykind stated that the District will do what it can to help resolve this issue but we need data.

Engineer Neri requested homeowners provide address, date of leak, hot or cold water. On Tuesday, November 1st, Engineer Neri will have a list of questions to track pinhole leaks.

Engineer Ponturo responded to a question regarding lead in the schools. Engineer Ponturo stated that the State Legislature passed a law requiring something that has previously been a voluntary program for approximately 25 years. This requires the school districts to test the water in their schools. That began 25 years ago because water coolers were lead lined. There was a great deal of 50/50 solder, which contained lead. It is the responsibility of the State Health Department to oversee.

Commissioner Kessler stated that the actual water coming into the schools does not have the lead and copper. It is their internal plumbing and it is the school's responsibility.

Melissa Blezow-Yulet stated that she has lived in her home since 1965 and never remembered having pinhole leaks. She now lives in her home with her family and the pinhole leaks started last year. Ms. Blezow-Yulet posted her issue of pinhole leaks on Plainview Moms. She requested that Plainview Moms drop bills off at her home for repair of the pinhole leaks. Ms. Blezow-Yulet hired a plumber who stated that he has repaired many pinhole leaks in the Plainview-Old Bethpage community. She requested the Board accept responsibility as a water district and figure out what is going on. Ms. Blezow-Yulet stated that all residents who have attended tonight's board meeting were there because she asked them to come.

Commissioner Kessler asked that Ms. Blezow-Yulet leave her information with Engineer Neri in order that it can be looked into.

Commissioner Laykind stated that he has confidence in the water in Plainview-Old Bethpage and doesn't have confidence when he leaves the community. Commissioner Laykind also stated that every week he reads the reports that come in and they are within limits set by the State and County. Commissioner Laykind indicated that this issue cannot be rectified immediately and will require data from the homes that experienced leaks.

Engineer Neri reported that he will compile a list of questions for homeowners who have experienced pinholes. Engineer Neri will work with the Board to review and start looking at the data. The entire community will be charted. Engineer Neri reported that the only thing that has recently changed in the District is that Plant No. 7 was a year round plant and now it is only used in the summer.

Attorney Ingham stated that we need data and information so we can try to determine causation and possibly reach out to PSE&G.

Evy Rothman inquired of absentee ballots.

Attorney Ingham reported that the District has chosen not to have absentee ballots.

Residents questioned their 3rd quarter 2016 bills and the water rates.

Commissioner Laykind discussed the District's third quarter billing. Different quarters cannot be compared. In 2015 the District paid \$850,000.00 to PSE&G. When electricity goes up the District has to pass on the costs. The District engineers conducted a water rate study which told us low users were not paying a proportionate share at \$8.00 per quarter. The minimum charge was raised from \$8.00 to \$14.00. There are tiers. The more you use the more you pay. It is to encourage conservation.

Kevin Langberg asked why you would have to raise the rates more than you have to. Is it for salaries of Joel's kids and Rich's son?

Commissioner Laykind stated that the question was inappropriate.

Evy Rothman asked if the District ever conducted an independent forensic audit.

Commissioner Laykind stated that the District has two accounting firms, one of which conducts an audit but has not conducted a forensic audit.

Commissioner Laykind suggested a break be taken at this time.

Kevin Langberg approached the Board and stated that he is a lifetime resident and former Commissioner from 2001-2009. Mr. Langberg questioned the District's uniform budget. He also reported that he will be submitting requests. The remainder of Mr. Langberg's questions concerned personnel.

Steve Tirsun inquired of the Board the plan of action regarding the pinhole issue.

Engineer Neri responded that he will come up with a list of questions and will work with the Superintendent on how to distribute the memo.

Mr. Langberg asked if all the information gathered will be available to the public.

Commissioner Bader responded that it would.

Meeting adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned with a call to the Chair at 9:05 pm.