

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Plainview Water District was held in the District office on Thursday, November 1, 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
Dennis Kelleher, Engineer

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.

Opening Statement by Commissioner Laykind:

Obviously, I think everybody is aware that the meeting that we had last week was unprecedented. We never had a crowd of that size in attendance. All in all it was a good thing. A lot of things were brought to our attention that we may not have known. We spoke to the staff on some of these items. My colleagues and I have literally worked every day on this and I apologize, I misspoke. Since our meetings are regularly on Tuesdays, not realizing it was Thursday; we had three working days and two weekend days before this meeting. I worked each and every one of those days to try and put something together along with my Commissioners. The staff has been working full time at this as well. We are seeing what we can do to develop a method to get to the bottom of this. Some of the items brought up at the meeting were pinhole leaks, water rates and backflow. Other individuals in the room clearly had personal agendas they were setting forth, but the main focus that we started to address was the pinhole leaks. There is a program that is being implemented. We are attempting to gather data on the pinhole leaks occurring in Plainview-Old Bethpage. It will involve a survey to be filled out by affected residents. The survey is here and can be taken with you tonight. Hopefully, by tomorrow, it will be up in PDF form on the website. It will be on the website shortly and you can fill it out on line and print it and send or fax it to the District. All of this is being done in-house and takes time. It is a pilot project that was put together to gather data. Gathering of data is an essential part of this project going forward. On behalf of the Board, I thank everybody that spoke. We are sensitive to your concerns when it involves the product we put out and when public comment is relevant to the problems that some of you are experiencing. I am not as sensitive to the concerns when they're personal attacks on my colleagues. The personal attacks don't help anybody's problems get solved. We are now going to begin the meeting. The engineer that was here last time had another

obligation. His colleague, Dennis Kelleher, is here and very familiar with pinhole leaks. We were advised by our attorney, and the Board is also taking the position, that this meeting will not be a free for all like last time. We will address every concern. Every person who signs in will have an opportunity to speak. If there is information you are seeking there are proper measures to obtain the information. Everything is transparent. Keep an eye on the District's website. There are two new updates on there concerning the survey and the pilot project. We will try to get the survey up as soon as possible. A lot of time went in to preparing the survey as the questions are designed to help us come to some conclusions regarding the leaks. Please get friends and neighbors to answer the survey. It will help us get a large number of surveys back. This will strengthen the data. I believe most of the data that we received, mainly from Melissa, has been inputted already on to the reports.

MICHAEL INGHAM'S REPORT – ATTORNEY:

Attorney Ingham updated the Board as it relates to the cross-connection control program. Nassau County is pushing the District to get 100% compliance. Attorney Ingham reported that he had another half dozen phone calls concerning the backflow prevention program. Many inquired as to why the notice was sent early when the date to complete is December 31st. Attorney Ingham explained the notice was sent early in order for residents to get their test done timely. Many residents had the test done but the plumber didn't send it in. Attorney Ingham reported that he answered every phone call and letter. Commissioner Laykind asked if Attorney Ingham conveyed to the residents that the purpose of the letter is to avoid the District from having to collect that money. Attorney Ingham responded absolutely. We want to give the residents plenty of time to get the test done. Most people test in the fall. The notice was sent timely. Next year the notice will be sent out the end of September or October. The notice has been effective.

DENNIS KELLEHER'S REPORT – ENGINEER:

Engineer Kelleher reported that he is working with the District staff on the pinhole issue. We took the location of the 15 pinhole leaks that were reported. They were documented and shown on a map. The District wanted to see if there were any trends. There really was no pattern. Since last week's meeting, the additional 186 homes were mapped. Again we wanted to see if there were any trends, around any plant sites or areas. The data was recently received and is still being analyzed. The survey will be sent out to every homeowner in the District. The 186 names provided so far have been sent the surveys. The survey will possibly be included in the newsletter or separate mailing, and asks some basic questions. The next thing that needs to be done are home inspections to check a couple of specific things in the home. Also, if you have some pipe sections that you kept we are going to want to look at them.

RICHARD W. TOBIN'S REPORT – SUPERINTENDENT:

Supt. Tobin provided the Board with draft newsletter articles for the Board's review and comments. Supt. Tobin inquired if the Board reviewed the articles. Commissioner Laykind reported that he would like the survey to be factored into the

newsletter. Commissioner Bader advised that we should make mention of the survey in the next newsletter.

MARIA ALBANO'S REPORT – CLERK TO THE BOARD:

Vendor check nos. 43952 through 43969 dated October 25, 2016 were reviewed, approved and signed by the Board.

Ms. Albano requested Board approval and authorization to transfer funds to cover dental claim costs:

- Dental claim dated October 25, 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 dental claim dated October 25, 2016 and the Board Treasurer authorized funds be transferred into the District's dental benefit account.

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. Poll workers should be selected as the District may have to send them for training at the Board of Elections.

Ms. Albano reported that quotes for folding/mailing the District's invoices and purchasing billing supplies were received on Friday, October 28, 2016. A spreadsheet listing the quotes will be prepared for the Board's review and approval.

Ms. Albano provided the Board with a flyer from the Plainview-Old Bethpage Chamber of Commerce regarding upcoming Multi-Chamber Networking events.

At 6:20 pm the Board dispensed with the regular order of business to receive comments from the community residents.

Ms. Rothman reported that as of this morning she had not seen the minutes of last Thursday's meeting on the website.

The Clerk to the Board advised Ms. Rothman that due to the length of the meeting the minutes are still being reviewed and will be put on the website when completed and approved by the Board.

Ms. Rothman stated that last week several people brought up that there might be an issue with the pinholes regarding electrical currents under the ground. Had the Board discussed this and directed the Superintendent to contact PSE&G and is a meeting going to be arranged.

Commissioner Laykind responded that the District is gathering data. Picking up the phone and calling PSE&G at this point would be foolish. Many homeowners have called PSE&G on their own and have had some good results as to their particular situation. As individuals, Commissioner Laykind would encourage residents to contact PSE&G. It is not time yet for the Superintendent to call PSE&G. Commissioner Laykind stated that a commitment was made to gather data. We can't be directed by our residents on what we should do, we rely on engineers and water professionals for this.

Engineer Kelleher responded that to help everyone out he will go back to his electrical engineer to get some wording to ask PSE&G and he will pass it on to Supt. Tobin who will then pass it on to the residents. At least it will be consistent.

Ms. Rothman asked after all the data is collected and analyzed by the professionals, is the District going to organize a Town Hall meeting to inform everyone as to what is going on.

Commissioner Laykind responded that what the District is doing right now, first phase, is data gathering so he wasn't able to answer that question, although he stated that he felt last week's meeting was as close to a Town Hall meeting as you could have.

Ken Altman reported that he came to the meeting because he is in the middle of dealing with this problem. He wanted to offer some constructive suggestions. Mr. Altman was pleased with Commissioner Laykind's opening statement and that the District is going in the right direction. He is requesting the District take a pro-active approach to gathering the data. After looking on the internet, Mr. Altman suggested that residents look into their water pressure and can get a device to reduce pressure in their home. If the water is not a cause something has to be the cause.

Engineer Kelleher reported that water pressure can be calculated.

Commissioner Laykind responded that the District is working as fast as it can to get the survey on the website. We are working with our residents.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet reported that she wanted to apologize for last week's meeting because she reached out to Plainview Mom's not to start this great big mess, but to see if anyone else had the problems that she had in her home. She stated that she is having pinhole issues in new pipes and some old pipes. She apologized for the chaos last week.

Commissioner Laykind responded that he appreciated her apology but it was not necessary. I think you and everyone else knew that there were a lot of different agendas in that room.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet stated that the day after the meeting she received a call from the District asking for the list of names of homeowners who have experienced pinhole leaks. On that list were 186 names and she has a lot more names to add. Her house is upside down right now by so many rooms being destroyed by pinholes. She was appreciative that the District mapped out the residences with pinhole leaks and there were names on

the list that were under the Plainview Water District that are not in Plainview-Old Bethpage. I think this is an urgent issue that should not be taken lightly. Ms. Blezow-Yulet thinks that the survey should get out to every household, recommending that the seniors at the high school, as a community service project, deliver the surveys. Ms. Blezow-Yulet thought the Board meetings were every Thursday.

Commissioner Laykind stated that at the last meeting it did come up that the meetings are every Tuesday.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet thinks District staff should come to homes sooner than later. Also, Ms. Blezow-Yulet has pictures of damage and pipes from homes affected by the pinholes. The level of damage ranges.

Engineer Kelleher stated that pictures will be valuable but more valuable is going to the houses. Damaged pipes should be stored in a garage unwrapped. When the survey is filled out pictures of damage may be attached.

Commissioner Laykind stated that the pipes will be collected but don't think that every pipe will be split and sent to labs. Tell people to drop the pipes off at the District. We'll inspect the pipes and it will be part of the overall investigation.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet thanked the Board and stated that she hoped the District would continue working on this issue.

Commissioner Laykind stated that the idea of using students in the school district to deliver the surveys is a good one and the District would certainly take advantage of that.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet indicated that she will contact the school district to see if the students can deliver the surveys.

Ms. Rothman stated that you can contact the senior citizen club and bring surveys and they can hand them out.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet stated that she went to the library requesting use of the auditorium to get as many homeowners to come to that as well.

Commissioner Laykind stated that you can do what you like, we do not want to put restrictions on that, but the District is open every day from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm answering residents' concerns and will give out the surveys and collect them.

A resident asked if he could put another meter in his home to check the gauge to see if he has any leaks.

Supt. Tobin responded it is a requirement for new homes to have the meter in the pit outside, but you can do whatever you want inside your own home.

A resident discussed pressure in the homes and stated that he was of the belief that pressure of 100 psi was too high and it should be between 60 psi and 65 psi. Is there a reason why the District would keep pressure at 100 psi?

Engineer Kelleher responded that the District does not set the pressure in your house. The water storage tank, depending upon the water level, sets the pressure and it varies.

A resident asked if there was something that changed in the District. Supt. Tobin responded that the elevated tank at Plant No. 2 was painted a number of years ago, which took the tank out of service during the painting.

Engineer Kelleher responded that the only thing that needs to be recorded is when pressure goes below 20 psi, however, pressure is constantly being monitored at all sites.

Supt. Tobin reported that the pressures have always been around 100 psi.

Engineer Kelleher stated that pressure records are kept at the plant sites. What controls it all is the water level in the elevated tank.

Commissioner Laykind asked if there is a possibility that on any given day the pressure can change in one house.

Engineer Kelleher responded that you may have a ten pound variation in your pressure on any given day given the level of water in the elevated tank.

Commissioner Laykind responded that part of the project that the District is beginning will check pressure in the homes.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet asked if there are any other towns going through the same issue.

Engineer Kelleher stated that he has worked in this field over 38 years. Six districts had runs of pinhole leak problems and almost everyone was a different story.

A resident asked if we put a lot of chlorine in the water.

Engineer Kelleher stated that every water supplier in New York State chlorinates their water. We are going to look at the chlorine records, but currently they are within limits.

Supt. Tobin stated that from what we have reviewed so far, the District's chlorine levels were within Nassau County Dept. of Health standards.

A resident asked when the District was going to the houses to look at the damage.

Commissioner Laykind stated that the District is not really looking at damage; we are looking at the copper pipe and infrastructure and gathering data.

Engineer Kelleher stated that the District is going to take an amprobe to see if there is any electrical current going through the ground which goes through the water main. Commissioner Laykind stated that other Water District Commissioners think we are crazy and tell us to let it go, it will go away. We disagreed. We are working on the problem. We are going to the homes where we think it will be helpful. We are sending experienced people around. Get yourself a good licensed electrician to check your home's ground. The electrician at The Hamlet said it was not the water. It is stray current in the ground at The Hamlet.

A resident wanted to thank the Commissioners for their efforts. I appreciate you getting this survey together so quickly. He heard that Clearview Village in Syosset uses both the Jericho Water District and the Plainview Water District. The Plainview side has the pinholes and the Jericho side does not.

Supt. Tobin reported that he received a call from the Superintendent in Jericho advising that he got a call from Pei-Sze Cheng of Channel 4 News. Jericho does have pinholes. Supt. Tobin and the Superintendent of Jericho Water will discuss this issue to see what they can work out together.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet stated that Ms. Cheng has an incredible amount of information. She is really researching this issue. Ms. Blezow-Yulet stated that our District gets chlorine and lime. Where does it get put in?

Supt. Tobin responded that it is injected at the water treatment plants.

Engineer Kelleher stated that the District is going to look to see where these pinhole leaks are centered. There are water treatment plant operators that manage all the plants.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet asked if there was a possibility that at one point something went wrong with the chemicals going in and the alarm didn't go off.

Engineer Kelleher stated that the District has testing equipment that monitors the pH and the chlorine residual. If too much is added an alarm goes off and the plant shuts down. It is recorded. There is 24-hour monitoring. There are safeties in place. The Health Department sets how much lime and chlorine goes in.

Ms. Blezow-Yulet stated that at certain times she can smell chlorine.

Engineer Kelleher responded that when you smell or taste chlorine there is too little chlorine. Supt. Tobin agreed with Engineer Kelleher's statement. Supt. Tobin stated that the way the chemistry of chlorination works is when you have too little chlorine is when you taste and smell it the most.

Commissioner Kessler stated that the District wants to get to the bottom of this.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned with a call to the Chair at 6:50 pm.

