

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

February 11, 2015

This meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** James Tanner, Ann Roosevelt, Richard Johnson and Phil Weinberg (phone)

**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Sam Corda, Tim MacDonald, Fred Centanni, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

**A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2015 MEETING**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to approve the January 14, 2015 minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Before the start of the managing director's report, Mr. Corda made the following announcement:* Brian Murphy, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, passed away on 2/5/15. Mr. Murphy's wake is today from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. The funeral will be held at Saint Paul's Church in Harvard Square on February 12th at 10 a.m. Mr. Corda, the Water Department and the Water Board extend their deepest sympathies to his family.

*Mr. Gallagher gave a brief update on recent snow removal efforts and leak events.* CWD crews have been working hard performing snow operations around the clock. There have been no complaints or issues from the public; in fact crews have received positive feedback on the good job they have been doing. In addition to keeping the treatment plant parking lot, reservation area, Payson Park, up country, and both sides of Concord Avenue (bike path, sidewalks and street) clear, CWD crews have been asked by the fire department for assistance in digging out hydrants.

*Fluoride Panel Discussion:* Mr. Corda recently attended a community water fluoridation discussion sponsored by the Cambridge Public Health Department (CPHD), held at the City Senior Center. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Sam Lipson of CPHD. An agenda of the February 4, 2015 program was passed out to the Water Board. The CDC lists fluoridation of drinking water as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Board of Health is, by regulation, the authority which decides whether Cambridge water will be fluoridated. The objective of the meeting was to begin a dialogue that could eventually assist the Board of Health in making a decision whether to decrease, maintain or eliminate Cambridge drinking water fluoridation levels. The meeting's agenda items were: 1) Water Treatment Overview; 2) Local Public Health Department Role; 3) Fluoridation Policy- A Local Perspective; and 4) Fluoridation Policy: Historic & National Perspective. At the end of the discussion of the four speaker's, there was a 45 minute public question and comment period. It is anticipated that the Board of Health will make a recommendation in early to mid summer of 2015. The Water Department, being a neutral party, is chartered to follow the regulations. Ms. Roosevelt would like to be informed of future discussion meetings.

*Chemical Storage Tour:* Mr. MacDonald led a tour of the upgraded ammonia system, which is part of the secondary disinfection system.

## C. OPERATIONS

**Transmission and Distribution:** Sixteen leaks were recorded in January, which Mr. Gallagher describes as average for January. Wintertime low temperatures can cause problems and in particular with old cast iron pipe.

**Hydrant Flow Data:** Mr. Gallagher said it takes a lot of work to keep the City's 1,800 hydrants flowing. Cambridge has a Class One fire rating which is the highest possible rating. This rating translates into insurance savings, which is very attractive to the many labs housed in the City. According to DEP, 50 percent of our job is fire protection.

**Water Operations:** The CWD developed a plan and applied for a permit to update the fluoride and ammonia systems. Both systems are basically identical. The new ammonia chemical is an inert and benign chemical. This is a significant safety enhancement for the plant. The operators installed the new systems and will also maintain them.

**General Questions from the Board:** Mr. Johnson asked Mr. MacDonald to further explain the term "Protected Water System" in the chemical feed area. Mr. MacDonald said that the domestic potable water was isolated by back flow preventers that feed the laboratory and the chemical area. Part of the upgrade in the chemical feed area was additional "in-plant" protection. We have a device which protects the non-potable water from the potable system. These back flow devices are installed and tested via DEP regulations.

Mr. Johnson asked about the pending order for a new inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer laboratory metals analyzer instrument. Mr. MacDonald said it tests for a suite of metals in five minutes.

### **Watershed:**

**General Questions from the Board:** Mr. Tanner inquired about the land acquisition in Lincoln. Mr. Corda said it was still moving ahead and that we have met with the city manager with the intent to purchase. It will have a non-revocable conservation restriction.

### **Business:**

*Mr. Johnson asked if the 84 failed cross-connection tests in January was high. Mr. Centanni remarked that it was not unusual.*

### **Engineering Division:**

No comments

## D. ACTION ITEMS

No Comments

## E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

## F. NEW BUSINESS

None

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES /TOPICS**

- March 11, 2015 – Approved/ Climate Protection Vulnerability Assessment
- April 8, 2015- Approved/ Security Vulnerability Assessment
- May 13, 2015 – Approved/TBD

Minutes approved by vote of the Board.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Ann C. Roosevelt, President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_