BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2026

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at 438 Granby Road on Monday, August 17, 2026. Chair Pauline McClaflin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Chair	Pauline McClaflin
Clerk	Chuck Scott
Associate Member	Christopher Geraghty
Superintendent	Jeffrey Cyr
Office Clerk	Leslie Baran
Treasurer/Clerk	Kari Scytkowski
Resident	Brian McClaflin

SIGNING OF WARRANTS & MONTHLY ANALYSIS: The Warrants were signed by Board members. Jeff Cyr presented the Board with the June and July monthly analysis as well as a refund for a resident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chuck Scott made a motion to approve the minutes of June 15, 2026. This motion was seconded by Christopher Geraghty. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

ALVORD ST TANK UPDATE: Jeff Cyr presented a revised schedule for the exterior painting of the Alvord St. tank. Jeff will be pursuing the borrowing paperwork from the MWRA and reaching out to bond counsel in October/November in order to secure the funds to proceed with advertising and bidding the project. The tank would be painted in the Spring of 2027. (see note 1) The tank would need to be taken offline for the project. Chris Geraghty asked if having the tank offline would create any flow issues. Jeff assured the Board there would be operational adjustments made to ensure adequate supply.

CYBERSECURITY GRANT UPDATE: Jeff Cyr updated the Board that things are moving slow right now. We are still waiting for hardware to come in from the vendor (Dell Computer). Following receiving the hardware, installation should go smoothly. The Emergency Response Plan was updated as well and includes a cybersecurity section. Once the document is finalized, a copy will be sent to the Board for review.

WEST PARKVIEW DR. WATER MAIN UPDATE: Jeff Cyr informed the Board the project has been completed and presented a final cost to the Board. (see note 2). The Board was pleased to see the cost savings compared to subcontracting the work.

LEAPING WELLS GATE HOUSE DISCUSSION:

Jeff Cyr informed the Board that we had our two-year dam inspection performed by Tighe and Bond on July 13, 2026. During the inspection it was noted that there were bricks that were jeopardized at the base of the gatehouse and we should address the issue sooner than later. We lowered the reservoir in order to complete the repairs. Jeff tried to address the deteriorated boat ramp at the same time. Rebekah Cornell, Conservation officer for the Town of South Hadley, drove by and noticed the work being done. Rebekah immediately issued a verbal cease and desist order to our staff stating we had no permit for the work being performed. This was the first time we have ever encountered this situation, and Rebekah issued the Water Dept a Violation order. The violation order states we need a General Maintenance Notice of Intent in order to continue the work. Jeff has reached out to Tighe and Bond and received a quote in the amount of $16,000.00 to perform the work. Jeff will review the scope with the town and Tighe and Bond and keep the Board updated.

OPEB DISCUSSION:

Jeff Cyr presented the recent Other Post Employment Benefits Report (OPEB) to the board for discussion. The Liability for the entire district has grown by approximately 3 million dollars in approximately one year. The main reason it has grown is due to life expectancy and rising health insurance costs. Chris Geraghty acknowledged the information and mentioned that we should continue to fund the OPEB Stabilization account as much as we can in future budgets.

BANKING DISCUSSION WITH TREASURER/CLERK:

Jeff Cyr and Kari Scytkowski presented the Board with some information from Greenfield Cooperative Bank regarding the possibility of separating the water Dept. Banking from the General fund of the district. This would ensure that all interest generated from water receipts, cell tower revenues, etc. would stay with the Water Dept. A discussion was held regarding the legality of the concept and Jeff and Kari will speak with our auditing firm as well as the Dept. of revenue to be sure this is viable. Jeff/Kari will keep the Board updated.

DIVISION OF LOCAL SERVICES KICK-OFF MEETING 8-5-26:

Chuck Scott attended the meeting with the Division of Local Services (DLS) on August 5, 2026, at the South Hadley Town Hall. Chuck mentioned the meeting was brief and the main focus of the meeting was the financial arrangement of the town. Jeff replied by saying that he is hopeful the DLS will reach out beyond the budget requests to continue the process.

REQUEST FROM THE SOUTH HADLEY MUSIC PARENTS ASSOC:

The South Hadley Music Parents Association reached out to the office requesting that a fund-raising insert be placed in the water bills going out on October 1, 2026. This request has been made in the past. There will be no added postage with the inserts. After a brief discussion, Chuck Scott made a motion to allow the inserts. This motion was seconded by Chris Geraghty. Motion Carried.

AT+T LEASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS FOR ALVORD ST AND INDUSTRIAL DRIVE TANKS AND POSSIBLE VOTE: Jeff presented the information for the lease amendments. AT+T is looking to reduce the monthly rent from $2310.00 per month to $1500.00 per month for both tanks, (See note 3) The Board held a discussion regarding the impact on revenues with this proposal. Jeff mentioned that our tanks that have cell towers on them are in great locations for service by the carrier. Following that, the Board rejected the amendments and therefore, a vote was not taken.

ELECTRIC SERVICE DISCUSSION FOR 444 FULLER ST.: Jeff was contacted by Engie North America regarding our outdated contract for electric at our Treatment Facility located at 444 Fuller St. That facility is serviced by Eversource, and electric is provided by a number of companies. Jeff was unaware of the outdated contract. Our electricity rate was variable based on the time of year and demand resulting in increased electricity bills. Our rate will now be 0.15058 per kwh for the next three years (see note 4). Pauline asked Jeff to add a placeholder on his calendar to look at his again in 2029.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY GROUP REGARDING COMBINING FIRE DISTRICT1 AND FIRE DISTRICT 2: Chuck Scott updated the Board stating that the group broke out into subcommittees for water operation, fire operations, finance, and communications. Chuck said the water operations, finance and communications are going well and that the fire operations have yet to meet. Chuck was hopeful the fire subcommittee could get together prior to their next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comments at this time.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chuck Scott made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Chris Geraghty. Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.