



The West Boylston Water District

Meeting Date and Time: Monday March 30, 2026; 5:00pm

Members Present: Stanley Szczurko, Robert Bryngelson, Jr., James LaMountain, Michael Mard, Stephen Muscente

Also Present: Michael Coveney, Heather Isaacs, Michael Ohl, Lori Renzoni, Robert Lopez

Mr. Szczurko called the meeting to order at 5:02 and notified the participants that the meeting would be audio recorded and Commission James LaMountain is in attendance remotely.

ITEM 1: TREASURER'S REPORT- see attachments.

Heather Isaacs presented the Water Use Charges, Profit and Loss, Balance Sheet and Aged Receivable reports through February 28, 2026. Mrs. Isaacs indicated that account 4821 (investments) would look odd until end of year adjustment is made. Mr. Muscente questioned whether legal costs for capital projects would increase thus the budget for FY27 would increase; Mrs. Isaacs clarified that she does not anticipate a significant increase. Mrs. Isaacs has submitted all paperwork to the State to certify free cash. Mrs. Isaacs will work with Mr. Coveney to schedule a budget planning meeting and create the transfers for the stabilization and reserve fund appropriations. Mr. Coveney questioned the wording of the approved appropriation; Mrs. Renzoni will confirm the wording. No further questions or comments.

ITEM 2: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT- see attached.

- 1.) 2026 Projects- Railroad bridges should be open late May/early June.
- 2.) No further questions or comments.
- 3.) Upcoming work: Mr. Szczurko questioned whether the asphalt plants are open yet; they are not.
- 4.) No further questions or comments.
- 5.) Bowen/Franklin Sts. Main replacement: Mike Ohl to update.
- 6.) Oakdale Well: Mr Coveney clarified for Mr. Bryngelson that the Quabbin Reservoir is at about 80% capacity and MDC was letting it recover before releasing water into Wachusett Reservoir. Also noted that Oakdale well is currently pumping at 200 gallons per minute/half capacity with reduced sand residue being seen.
- 7.) Mr. Coveney noted that #6 would change to a contribution to retirement plan, not Worcester Regional Retirement. See new business. Mr. Szczurko questioned whether the updated employee handbook had ever been voted upon; it did not.

ITEM 3: OLD BUSINESS-

Pleasant Valley Well manganese: levels holding steady with additional chloritization.

Lee Street Booster Pump: waiting for warmer weather for installation.

ITEM 4: NEW BUSINESS-

Oakdale Well Cleaning and Maintenance- Mr. Ohl outlined two issues that have been identified. A fine silt has been accumulation on top of the filter media and sometimes not being flushed out in a backwash. This first occurred in the fall and Roberts Filter inspected, backwashed the accumulation and the issue was remedied. The same issue was identified in late March; Mr. Ohl feels that there was some change that has impacted the area around the well. Joel Frisch, the hydrologist with Northeast GeoScience also inspected the well. More information is needed; formation around the well could have deteriorated, the well screen may need to be changed which is already planned, or there could be another way the silt has infiltrated. Mr. Ohl outlined

steps being taken to help mitigate the silt issue including cleaning and inspecting the well, then having F. Sullivan install a new well screen. They will inspect to ensure the gravel packed areas around the screen haven't been compromised. Mr. Szczurko questioned whether the well screen could be placed deeper; Mr. Ohl advised that they needed to work within the existing casing. The second issue identified is an increase in manganese levels in unfinished (untreated) water, which is not unusual with a large change in groundwater levels like the current drought conditions have caused. Once more water is released into the Wachusett Reservoir or there is significant rain, a determination can be made to the impact the drought/withholding of water has caused. Mr. Szczurko questioned whether the filters could handle removal at current levels; Mr. Ohl feels this is pushing the limits of the filters at the parameters the plant was based upon. Mr. Coveney informed the Board that the well currently is being pumped at 200 gallons per minute as opposed to 400 gallons per minute. Lee Street Well is pumping at 100% capacity; Pleasant Valley Well is at limited capacity. Mr. Szczurko questioned how quickly a treatment facility could be constructed/utilized for Pleasant Valley; Mr. Ohl indicates at least five years out and will be determined after feasibility study complete. Mr. Szczurko questioned whether new developments could be absorbed with current water yield. Mr. Ohl feels that if Oakdale Well maintenance does not mitigate issues and continues to limit water yield the Town should be informed of issues. Mr. Ohl pointed out that MDC records indicate that we are currently in the worst drought since the 1950s and the Oakdale Well was built in the 1960s. Mr. Szczurko questioned whether Worcester would be open to selling water now that the sewer court case had been settled; Mrs. Renzoni pointed out that the case only included Holden and no other community. Mr. Ohl ensured the Board that Worcester was part of the feasibility study and would be approached. Mr. Mard questioned whether the screen gets normal maintenance; Mr. Coveney and Mr. Ohl feels the screen that was installed in 1956 has reached its life expectancy but did get regular inspections. Mr. Coveney noted that there is an emergency connection in place with Worcester should it ever be needed. Mr. Coveney asked Mr. Ohl at what point does the filter needs to be shut down based on pressure; Mr. Coveney has been shutting down the process at 5 psi differential, Mr. Ohl feels that the current filter can handle a 10 psi differential without impacting the media. Mr. Szczurko wondered whether there was additional space for pre-treatment like oxidation before the filters. Mr. Ohl notes the process is difficult. Notes ozone process is not budget friendly and there is no room in current plant layout. Mr. Ohl informed the Board that another substance was removed from the filters; not certain what material is but hypothesizes it is anthracite or legacy manganese. Looking to have it analyzed. Mr. Coveney will vacuum out the media and replace some or most of the anthracite. Mr. Szczurko recommended reaching out to other systems that use green sand filtration to get their experience/expertise.

Part Time Administrative Assistant Position: Mr. Bryngelson motioned to present an offer of employment to Alyssa Verge of West Boylston, Mr. LaMountain seconded the motion; roll call vote; all voted in favor, motion carried.

ITEM 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Muscente motioned to approve the March 3, 2026 meeting minutes as presented, Mr. Mard seconded the motion; roll call vote: all voted in favor, motion carried.

ITEM 6: Future Agenda Items- None presented

Mr. Muscente made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Bryngelson seconded the motion; roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Szczurko adjourned the meeting at 6:39pm. Next meeting scheduled for April 27, 2026.

Meeting Minutes of the West Boylston Water District

March 30, 2026

Members Present: Robert Bryngelson, Jr., James LaMountain, Michael Mard, Stephen Muscente

Date of Approval: April 27, 2026
