

Commissioner Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2026

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

All members present

The Board reviewed and signed Warrants

Mr. Emkey made a motion to approve the minutes of May 27th, 2026, and June 3rd, 2026. Mr. Bursch, second, all in favor.

The Board discussed the kayak rack that is in the Zone I area of the Hickory Hills Well. Mr. Emkey suggested the Board send a letter to MassDEP requesting a variance for the rack to stay in the Zone I. Mr. Woodward and Mr. Bursch did not agree. The Woodlands had sent two letters, and DEP had already responded to them stating that they must be removed. Mr. Emkey felt that potential litigation costs could be avoided should the MassDEP accept the variance request from the Commissioners. The District has been monitoring the wells and several times the Zone I restrictions have been violated with vehicles and golf carts entering the area. The Board agrees it was time to put up a gate that would prevent this from happening. Mr. Bursch made a motion to have the Water District install a swinging gate at the entrance of the Zone I at the Hickory Hills Well. Mr. Emkey, second, all in favor.

The Board went back to discussing the kayaks. Mr. Woodward stated that it was time to have KP Law write up a letter. Mr. Bursch made a motion to have KP Law write a letter to the Woodland's Condo Association's lawyer stating that the kayaks and the rack need to be moved out of the Zone I area immediately. Mr. Woodward second. Mr. Bursch and Mr. Woodward in favor, Mr. Emkey opposed. Motion passed.

An open meeting complaint was filed by resident Andy Starvaski. The Board received the complaint, and legal counsel provided a draft response for the Board to review. The Board agreed the letter was all set. The Clerk will reach out to KP Law for them to submit the response to the Attorney General the next day.

The Water District received their sanitary survey from MassDEP. The main areas that will need to be addressed are the elevated levels of PFAS and manganese and the need for redundancy. Mr. Emkey reviewed his proposal for how to run the Lancaster Ave wells. He thought that running all four wells together for 12 hours at a time every day might lower the PFOA and manganese levels. The Board agreed to try this and test the levels every other week to see if anything improves.

The Clerk and Supt had been running into issues and concerns with changing over to the new billing software. They requested that the Board agree to hold off on switching to them. Mr. Bursch made a motion to rescind the change of software to Vadar and continue with NDS until the issues can be resolved. Mr. Emkey second, all in favor.

The Supt updated the Board that the new radio system was being installed. One issue was a tree near the Keatings well that was blocking the signal. He was looking into a 20' extension to add to the tower. Mr. Woodward suggested looking at possibly cutting that tree down.

A tree came down at the Lancaster Ave wells, and the electrician had to be called in. Well 5 was also having some issues with one of the pumps.

The Supt is hoping to finish up the water main on Meadow Lane this summer. He was looking for the Boards approval to rent a screener so that we could screen our material to use instead of having to purchase it. The Board approved.

The District received another PFAS litigation check this week.

Mr. Bursch requested that the Supt and Clerk speak to the Board at the next meeting regarding the sale of water to companies such as the pool company.

Mr. Woodward addressed some of the concerns that were brought up at the Special Meeting.

Public Comment

Dave Rodgers, 82 Highland St, gave some suggestion regarding the kayak rack. He also spoke about the financial analysis of the PFAS SRF

John Esposito, Mulpus Rd, stated that he felt Mr. Emkey was associated with a special interest group and was being influenced by them and shouldn't be.

Mr. Emkey responded that he took that personal and speaks for himself.

Meeting adjourned 6:05 p.m.

Minutes by Christina Schwinger