

**Town of Needham  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes for September 29, 2016  
Selectmen's Chamber  
Needham Town Hall**

7:00 p.m.

Call to Order:

An emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Matthew D. Borrelli. Those present were Maurice P. Handel, John A. Bulian, and recording Secretary Sandy Cincotta.

The emergency meeting was called to discuss the need for calling an emergency outdoor water ban. The Board was joined by David Davison, Acting Town Manager, Robert Lewis, Assistant Director of Public Works and Chris Seariac, Superintendent of Water and Sewer. Also in attendance, who provided input to the issue were Richard Merson, Director of Public Works, Timothy McDonald, Director of Public Health, and Fire Chief Dennis Condon, Police Chief John Schlittler and Lieutenant Belinda Carroll.

Mr. Davison explained to the Board that the Town had been notified by the MWRA that there was a leak in the service line to Needham and Wellesley and that it would be necessary for the MWRA to shut down service to the two towns while repairs were made.

Assistant Director Lewis explained that the Town has 3 wells, one of which, well #3 is out of service for repairs. Of the two other wells, one was within 3 feet of the bottom screen and would need to draw more water and the other well was 10 to 12 feet above the screen.

Superintendent Seariac reported that a typical Thursday water demand in the Town calls for 4.5 million gallons of water for the day. The Town's wells would be able to only supply 2.5 million gallons of water, without drawing from the MWRA supply.

Assistant Director Lewis reported that the Town had been in contact with the Town of Dedham who can supply water through the interconnection and flushing had been done on both ends in anticipation of this need. However, even with Dedham's assistance, the typical demand of 4.5 million gallons cannot be met.

Chairman Borrelli asked how long is the MWRA line shutdown anticipated and Assistant Director Lewis responded approximately 24-36 hours, however, given the potential severity of the repair needs, it could be as long as 48 hours.

Chairman Borrelli asked how much water could be saved with an emergency ban of outdoor water use? Assistant Director Lewis stated that the MWRA supply source

is usually shut down in the winter months, where there is little outside water usage, and the water demand is typically 1.4 – 2.0 million gallons.

The Board discussed the most effective way to notify residents and it was determined that the Reverse 911 system would reach all of the homes with landlines. Augmenting this with the School Department's listserve process would reach more families.

Chief Dennis Condon reported the plan for the Fire Department, if their services would be called for during this emergency. He stated there was access to a large water truck and if necessary, lakes/streams could be utilized as water sources.

Public Health Director McDonald reported that he had mobilized staff to contact hospitals, nursing homes and other businesses, if needed.

Superintendent Seariac reported that multiple crews would be out canvassing the Town during this outdoor water ban.

**Motion by Mr. Handel to move that all outdoor watering is banned until further notice and further that the Board requests that residents and businesses refrain from other non-essential water use until the water emergency is over.**

**Motion to amend by Mr. Handel that to add that the Director of Public Works be authorized to declare when the emergency is over.**

**Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 3-0.**

7:30 p.m.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board of Selectmen vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of September 29, 2016.**

**Second: Mr. Bulian. Unanimously approved 3-0.**