

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
of the
Edward Farrar Utility District
Wednesday May 8, 2024**

Board of Commissioners: P. Howard Flanders, Chair; Robert Finucane, Cynthia Parks, Natalie Sherman, and Mark Alberghini

District Staff: Tom Leitz, Manager; Karen Petrovic, District Clerk

Public: Kenneth Ryan, Bill Woodruff, Roger Clapp, Rick Weston, Lisa Scagliotti – Waterbury Roundabout, Tom Gloor, Georgianna Birmingham, Jeff Sayah, Elizabeth Motch and Julie Motch, Kia Commo, Cathy Flanders, William Shepeluk, Alyssa Johnson, Anne Imhoff, Gary and Sally Dillon

P. Flanders called the 6th Annual Edward Farrar Utility District Meeting to order at 7:30pm

P. Flanders opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a dedication of the Annual Report to Lefty Sayah's family.



Julie Motch, Jeff Sayah, Granddaughter Elizabeth Motch, Commissioner P. Howard Flanders.
Photo courtesy Lisa Scagliotti

N. Sherman moved to nominate P. Howard Flanders as Moderator which was seconded by R. Weston. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. A floor vote was held supporting P. Flanders as the moderator and passed unanimously.

R. Weston moved to dispense with the reading of the warning for the meeting. A floor vote was held and passed unanimously.

Article 1: To act on the reports of the officers of the Edward Farrar Utility District

R. Weston made a motion to act on the reports of the District Officers. The motion was seconded by R. Finucane. P. Flanders gave an overview of the officer reports highlighting current staff positions with licenses held and utility rates. With permission T. Leitz was able to speak at the meeting. T. Gloor asked the Board about delinquencies that exist in the Duxbury Moretown Fire District. T. Leitz was able to speak to the delinquency. R. Clapp informed the board that J. Poitrus attended the Select Board meeting

regarding an invoice in the amount of \$600 he wanted to make the Board aware of. T. Leitz confirmed he spoke to the law office that J. Poitrus claimed money was due to and there is no outstanding invoice. R. Clapp asked about fluoride in the water system. The District does include fluoride in the water per State recommendation. Downstreet Housing has secured financing for 51 South Main Street and they expect to break ground this fall. T. Gloor asked about projections of new customers in the next year. P. Flanders was able to highlight the capacity of the two systems and break down those numbers. T. Leitz stated 20-25 new customers in the coming year with 51 South Main coming in 2025. Funding for the cross-country water line through East Wind Drive was discussed. The engineering is nearly completed but there are still costs to be considered. January/February 2025 is the projected date to go to bid on the project. T. Gloor asked if there has been a noticeable change since the State Complex has been reoccupied. T. Leitz stated he has been reviewing their invoice and he has not seen a meaningful change in the needle. It is believed this is due to remote work options. T. Leitz spoke of previous utility rate increases and made note of COVID years when rates were reduced. It is anticipated water and sewer rates will go up at the same rate as inflation. In the future, the Commissioners have committed to do more to inform the public in advance of rate increases. T. Gloor asked about the Loan Fund (aka UDAG). While T. Leitz could not recall the interest rate for each individual loan, he was able to recall a recent one's lending was set at 4%. It was also confirmed there are still funds available to be lent. W. Shepeluk was given permission to speak. W. Shepeluk stated he cannot recall a time when the demand for loans exceeded the available balance. T. Gloor recalled there was a proposal to transfer the loan fund to the Town and can see a natural fit for another discussion of a merger. The Commissioners will consider having a member of the Select Board join the Loan Committee tasked with vetting loan inquiries. **The question was called; the motion to act on the reports passed by voice vote.**

Article 2: To elect by Australian ballot the following officers: Two District Commissioners for a term of one year; and one District Commissioner for a term of three years.

With 144 votes cast by Australian ballot, the results of Article 2 are as follows:

For District Commissioner for a term of one year:

Natalie Sherman	129
Rick Weston	118
Blank	1
Write-Ins	2

For District Commissioner for a term of three years:

Skip Flanders	134
Blank	1
Write-Ins	2

Article 3: To set the compensation of the District officers for the ensuing year

R. Clapp moved that the compensation for the Edward Farrar Utility District Officers for the current budget year of 2024 be set as follows: Chairman \$1,450, Commissioners \$1,200 and Clerk/Treasurer \$1,200. The motion was seconded by R. Weston. T. Gloor asked if this was paid in the budget split out of water and sewer; it was confirmed it is. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Article 4: To see if the District will authorize the Commissioners to borrow a sum of money by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the water system.

R. Finucane moved to authorize the Commissioners to borrow \$100,000 by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the water system. The motion was seconded by R. Clapp. T. Leitz stated there is no planned borrowing, this request is in the event of a capital expense that require borrowing. This is the authority if it is necessary. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Article 5: To see if the District will authorize the Commissioners to borrow a sum of money by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the wastewater system.

R. Finucane moved to authorize the Commissioners to borrow \$100,000 by note, for a period not to exceed five years, to make improvements to the wastewater system. The motion was seconded by R. Weston. T. Leitz stated in the past years borrowing that occurred was borrowed from the Town at a rate of 3%. **The motion passed by voice vote.**

Article 6: To do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

R. Finucane recognized M. Alberghini for his service to the Board and thanked him for coming forward to fill the void of a left-handed board member.

R. Weston moved to adjourn; R. Finucane seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.