

January 7, 2026
Meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

1. Chairman Steven Cadorette called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners at 4:03pm in the Commissioner's Office at the Water Treatment Plant, 3249 County Street, Somerset, Massachusetts, 02726. He announced the meeting was being recorded.

Commissioners present: Chairman Steven Cadorette and Clerk Robert E. Lima. Vice-Chairman Joseph Bednaik, Jr. was not present for the meeting.

Also present were Christopher Wickman, Sean Pires, Antonio Neves, Jacquelyn Ferreira, Peter Saulino, Andy McCullough, Amy Pickering, Elizabeth Paskowski, and Brian Moniz and McKenzie Partell from SATV.

2. Ms. Elizabeth Paskowski from 347 North Street, Somerset, spoke during public comment. She said she would like a clarification of an email from Steve Cadorette regarding the exhaustive review.

3. Clerk Lima motioned to table the minutes of the December 17, 2025 meeting; seconded by Chairman Cadorette. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes.

4.a. Attorney Peter Saulino addressed the Board on behalf of Southcoast Commercial Properties GAR, Inc. regarding the private sewer line for Lot 226 on Assessor's Map A-9. He said the property owners to the east, KFC, Roland's and Red's Dairy, are all aware of the Washville Car Wash tie-in and agree to it. Chairman Cadorette said he will send to K-P Law for review. Attorney Saulino asked if he could just correspond directly with K-P Law; Chairman Cadorette said he will speak to K-P Law about that. Attorney Saulino thanked the Board for their time.

4.b. Chairman Cadorette read a statement from Vice-Chairman Joseph Bednarik that he provided to his fellow Board members in his absence. It read, "As head of the hiring committee, I recommend the Board move forward with hiring Amy Pickering as Clerk of the Sewer Department". Superintendent Wickman said he agreed and supported this, adding she was a very good candidate. Chairman Cadorette motioned to appoint Amy Pickering of 643 Pleasant Street, Somerset, MA 02726 as Clerk at the Water Pollution Control Facility; seconded by Clerk Lima. Roll-

call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes. Ms. Amy Pickering told the Board she is looking forward to the new position.

4.c. Clerk Lima motioned to renew the Water Distribution & Sewage Collection System Emergency Repairs contract with Coastal Water Sewer & Excavation Inc.; seconded by Chairman Cadorette. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes. This is the second extension of the existing contract. Next year the contract will go back out to bid. Chairman Cadorette said Coastal Water Sewer & Excavation Inc. is very responsible and he looks forward to working with them again.

4.d. Clerk Lima motioned to approve the RFP for Sludge Removal Transportation & Disposal Services for the Wastewater Treatment Plant; seconded by Chairman Cadorette. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes. The RFP is for a 3-year contract with a 1-year renewal option. It covers both cake and liquid sludge disposal, with containers, etc. included. Superintendent Wickman and Sewer Department Plant Manager and Chief Operator Sean Pires reviewed the RFP in depth. Both Chairman Cadorette and Clerk Lima reviewed the RFP and found it acceptable.

4.e. The Board tabled the RFP for lease of 3256 County Street, Somerset, MA 02726; there are no new developments. We will need to sit with Town Hall and see who will advertise the bid. It is in draft form currently.

5.a. & 5.c. Superintendent Wickman reported the plant flow at the Somerset Water Department was 1.67 MGD. The reservoir level is 62 inches below full.

Nitrate, nitrite and inorganic testing is scheduled for first quarter 2026.

Annual 2025 Town Report for the Water and Sewer Department are due to Town Hall by February 6, 2026. Plant Manager and Chief Operator of both departments are working to complete these reports.

Data is being collected to complete the 2025 Annual Statistical Report.

The annual water service line inventory notification letters were mailed out and received. This includes approximately 4,450 required notifications for “Galvanized Requiring Replacement” and “Service Line That May Contain Lead” letters to appropriate homeowners. The office has received a significant number of calls regarding these drinking water notices. The Water Department Plant Manager and Chief Operator and office staff have been working diligently to answer questions. Appointments are being made for inspections.

The Water Distribution Crew have been very active, repairing multiple water breaks since December 24, 2025. They have averaged one leak per day for three weeks straight.

The January water and sewer bills are behind schedule. They have been submitted to the printing company and are scheduled to be mailed and delivered by January 9, 2026. The due date will be February 9, 2026. The total billed amount is \$2.081 million, which he added is on par with the budget.

The Hot and Cold Lane booster pump station project has been on hold. The contractor will resume full-time around mid-January.

The contractor for the ARPA funded water main replacement project has completed the last and final water main installation on Crestview Avenue. The two-phase project is now complete. This water main project replaced 8,000 lf of aging 2-inch steel pipe, updated 144 water services and added 19 fire hydrants to the distribution system. Chairman Cadorette thanked the Board of Selectmen for the available ARPA funding; he said he really appreciated these funds being available to us.

Ice rescue training at the reservoir has been conducted by the Somerset Fire Department today and they are scheduled to resume training again tomorrow.

The Segreganset River pump station was operated for another five days as flows allowed. Pumping will resume when the flows support operations again.

5.b. Plant flows have averaged 4 MGD at the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF).

The contractor will be resuming work for the pump station upgrades project soon.

The engineering company tasked to remove the cover on the primary clarifier is anticipated to start work this week.

Synagro's Woonsocket plant was shut down this week, but due to the blankets being high in the secondary clarifiers, the Sewer Department Plant Manager and Chief Operator, Mr. Sean Pires, reached out to another sludge hauler to ensure there were enough pickups this week. Superintendent Wickman said it was good to have both disposal options.

Annual testing of the sludge at the WPCF needs to be performed. The WPCF's main sludge hauler sent quotes from different labs that can run the tests, and Mr. Pires reached out to one of them. He will be receiving bottles from that lab soon.

The chains on one of the grit channels came off track because of the pins breaking on the buckets. It has been cleaned out and the other side is being used until it can be fixed.

The WPCF is currently using more bisulfite than normal due to the fact that the ORP analyzer is no longer able to be calibrated. Mr. Pires has reached out to company in charge of changing it and heard back from them this morning.

Mr. Pires congratulated Amy Pickering as the new Sewer Clerk for the Department. Ms. Pickering thanked him.

5.d. The Board provided an update on Phase I of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the WPCF. A meeting was held with Wright-Pierce last month and we are awaiting an updated proposal for consulting services.

6.a. i. Clerk Lima made a motion to approve the annual Drainlayer License renewal for MJD Excavating, Inc. of 231 Plain Street, Rehoboth, MA 02769; seconded by Chairman Cadorette. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes.

6.a. ii. Clerk Lima made a motion to approve the annual Drainlayer License renewal for J.H. Landscaping & Construction, P.O. Box 68, Somerset, MA 02726; seconded by Chairman Cadorette. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes.

6.a. iii. Clerk Lima made a motion to approve the annual Drainlayer License renewal for East Coast Landscaping & Construction Inc. of 202 Chace Road, Portsmouth, RI 02871; seconded by Chairman Cadorette. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes.

7. The Board received a letter of resignation from Meter Reader/Cross Connection Control Operator, Steven Sabatino, on December 17, 2025. His last working day will be the last day of December. Chairman Cadorette thanked him for the work he did for the Department. Both Chairman Cadorette and Clerk Lima said he was an excellent employee, and they were sorry to see him go but wished him luck in his future endeavors.

8. Under Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48-hours in Advance of the Meeting, Clerk Lima reported that he heard back from the rate study consultant, he is requesting some additional information, including the FY27 budget.

9. Chairman Cadorette motioned at 4:34pm to enter Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(7) to approve Executive Session Minutes of December 17, 2025. The meeting will adjourn in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Clerk Lima. Roll-call vote: Clerk Lima – yes; Chairman Cadorette – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

February 11, 2026