

SARATOGA WATER DISTRICT
ISLAND COUNTY WASHINGTON

Minutes for January 21, 2026 - Regular Meeting

MEETING PLACE

Baby Island Club, 3616 Saratoga Road, Langley WA

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Keith Sorensen, Phil Prior and William Poss

Absent: none

ALSO PRESENT: none

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Sorensen.

Commissioner Sorensen motioned that the December 2025 meeting minutes be approved as written. Commissioner Poss seconded the motion. (*Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed*).

Commissioner Poss motioned vouchers 155-160 (and added reimbursement of \$389.12 for Commissioner Sorensen purchase of dehumidifier) and ETF 26-01 for the month of January 2026 in the total amount \$9856.15 be approved. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion. (*Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed*).

Cash in the Operations Maintenance account as of December 31, 2025 was reported as \$127,333.95. Reserve Funds, including the reserve CD as of December 31, 2025 was reported as \$219,813.88. All accounts are managed by the Island County Treasurer.

An Accounts Receivable Report dated December 29, 2025 was provided indicating the balance due on water bills and past due amounts. No action on late accounts was made. Commissioner Poss reported the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association will be discussing delinquent account management this year.

Old Business-Operations

- **King/NWNWS asked to comment on** arsenic treatment system. Per Joanne Skaar: "*To date the arsenic treatment system is working as designed and we have not received any notifications from the DOH regarding exceedances*". It was noted that test results have been well below the MCL. Matter tabled.
- **King/NWNWS asked about the** replacement of two frozen valves on McKay Road:. We would like the bid to be reflective of the one valve set we already paid for as shown on last item in the June invoice from Northwest Natural (see the

Ferguson gaskets flange set wedge restraint and gate valve for \$2669.34) Per Joanne Skaar: “ *the new estimate reflects the credit and the updated 2026 rates for NWNWS, Coupeville tax rate, and mileage rate*”. The board made no decision at this time

- Can you confirm the two valves that are frozen are the two 6 inch gate valves as shown on the attached JPG of sheet C04 (circled in pencil)? Per Joanne Skaar: “*Map is attached hereto in the email response of the agenda*”. However there was a handwritten note that was not clear-will ask for clarification. Matter tabled.
- **King/NWNWS comment on** recent coliform violation from DOH? Per Joanne Skaar: *The sample was not scheduled in April 2025 by our counterparts in Oregon. This and many other reasons are why the compliance department was moved to the Washington office for scheduling and monitoring. The DOH notice to users is attached to the email response for the meeting. We will be mailing the letters to the users on 2.28.2026- hopefully with the billing but if billing late the compliance department will do a separate mailing to ensure the water users receive the letter in a timely manner.* Matter tabled.
- **King/NWNWS comment on** hydrant inspection/testing project? Per Joanne Skaar: *Currently there are 9 left to test. So far nothing is notable on the testing. Flow seems to be good up to this point.* Will ask for follow up and completion of project asap. Matter tabled.

Old Business Commissioner update:

- Commissioner Sorensen reported his purchase a small dehumidifier (similar to one acquired for pump house from Amazon) and the receipt was provided and written into in this month’s vouchers.
- Commissioner Sorensen update on schedule from Cato Co re: removal of hazard tree removal near pump house. No date set yet. Matter tabled.
- Commissioner discussion of a possible Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Discussed email from Robert Benion of FACET. Commissioner Sorensen to try and set up meeting with Robert. Matter tabled.
- Consideration of leak/repair and high bill relief request from Matias Valenzuela account 20116. Commissioner Poss motioned the request for relief needs to be consistent with Policy of a maximum 50% of the overage, be approved. Commissioner Prior seconded the motion. *(Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed).*

- Discussion of recent electrical issues at pump house as reported by Jerry Beck and Josh with NWNWS (high voltage spikes, kickbacks etc.). Apparently recent power outages have impacted our system. A new transformer was installed by PSE. A report from J Beck will be requested. Matter tabled.
- Discussion of need for new generator service contractor as Square not available. Matter tabled.

Correspondence

- Discussion of email from Lisa Blessing regarding high water usage in spite of new meter. Usage near but not over bae rate. Decided to wait and see what a full new cycle looks like as new meter installed mid cycle. Matter tabled.

New Business

- Consideration of recommended chemical pumps replacement proposal from NWNWS at \$3927. Commissioner Prior motioned the proposal by NWNWS be approved and the old pumps be retained at well house. Commissioner Sorensen seconded the motion. *(Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed)*.
- Note a recommendation by NWNWS for fixing a booster pump leak-however the proposal was not provided by meeting time. Matter tabled.

Correspondence

Annual Insurance Certificates provided by the Water and Sewer Risk Management Pool.

Audience Participation: None

Commissioner Sorensen motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 8:08. Commissioner Poss seconded the motion. *(Motion carried, unanimously approved and passed)*

Commissioner Sorensen, President _____

Commissioner Poss - Secretary _____

Commissioner Prior – Treasurer _____



