

Minutes of the 29th Meeting of the Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board, held on the 18th December, 1982. in the Committee Room, Vth floor, Mantralaya.

PRESENT

- |    |                                                                       |                        |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Smt. Pratibhatai Patil<br>Hon. Minister, Urban Development.           | ..... Chairman         |
| 2. | Shri Anantrao Thopte,<br>Hon. Minister of state<br>Rural Development. | ..... Vice-Chairman    |
| 3. | Shri Anil Kumar,<br>Secretary Finance Deptt.                          | ..... Member           |
| 4. | Shri W.D. Bhide,<br>M.S. M.W.S.S.B.                                   | ..... Member Secretary |
| 5. | Shri P.V. Bhutkar,<br>Chief Engineer (Rural)                          | ..... Invitee          |
| 6. | Shri B.V. Rotkar,<br>Chief Engineer (Urban)                           | ..... Invitee          |
| 7. | Shri S.D. Pradhan,<br>Chief Engineer (Project)                        | ..... Invitee          |
| 8. | Shri C.J. Malkani,<br>F.A. & C.A.O.                                   | ..... Invitee          |
| 9. | Shri H.M. Dahibhate,<br>D.S., R.D.D.                                  | ..... Invitee          |

Item No. 1:- Confirmation of the Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the M.W.S.S.Board, held on the 18th Sept.1982.

1. Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the Board, held on 18th September, 1982, were confirmed.

Item No.2 :- Actions taken, initiated or being taken on the actionable points as per the Minutes of the last 28th Meeting of the Board.

2. (1) Constitution of Committees for Scrutiny of proposals for grant of Advance increments and merit certificates.

Since the officers and staff of the Board implement works of both Urban and Rural Schemes, it was decided that Deputy Secretaries of both the Urban Development and Rural Development Deptts. should be appointed as Members of the Committee.

3. (2) Review of progress of schemes :- M.S. mentioned that progress Report of Urban Schemes has been put up as a separate Agenda Note vide Item No.4.

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(3) Recruitment of personnel in Accounts Branch.

The Secretary, F.D. mentioned that the proposal was under consideration. The M.S. & Secy. explained the necessity of framing recruitment rules in respect of officers and staff required for the Accounts Wing, since these cadres did not exist with the Board and personnel have been drawn as on deputation from the Accountant General and the Directorate of Accounts & Treasuries. The Chairman observed that the scheme for recruitment/absorption should be suitably framed with appropriate different nomenclatures of posts than those adopted in Govt./A.G's Office, so that complications arising out of comparison of these cadres from various offices, are avoided and no grievances are created among the staff. It was decided to finalise the scheme by taking into account these aspects.

(4) Staffing pattern for Ambernath/Ulhasnagar Water Works

5. M.S. explained that necy. proposals would be put up in the next meeting after taking into account the views of the committee appointed by the Board. On enquiry from the Chairman, the M.S. mentioned that the main recommendation of the committee was to reduce the number of posts to 178.

✓ (5) Conversion of Daily Rated and Workcharged establishment into converted Regular Temporary and Permanent establishment as per Kalelkar settlement.

6. The Chairman observed that the main objective should be to ensure that the Board is not burdened with necessary staff. Even if the staff is appointed against posts sanctioned by Govt., the problems would continue to exist and the built-in flexibility available in the existing system of conversion only after completion of stipulated length of service would be lost. The Vice-Chairman, the Secretary, F.D. & C.E. (Project) opined that for operation and construction works, personnel have to be appointed immediately on taking up the works and if such appointments are to be made only after sanction of posts by Govt. it will adversely affect the working, since considerable time is bound to be required for completing the process. It was finally....

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Member Secretary  
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decided that suitable proposal should be framed for delegation of powers to field officers for recruitment of persons on daily-rated and work-charged category which would be more restrictive than the present, ensuring that persons so appointed are discontinued before stipulated period so that inevitable conversions are reduced and requirement is reviewed regularly. It was also decided that in view of practical difficulties involved in operation and construction works, the Government should be requested to withdraw the directive, pending finalisation of proposal and its consideration and approval by the Board.

(6) Financial Assistance in the event of death of Board employees.

7. At the outset, the Vice-Chairman and Secretary, F.D. referred to various schemes under implementation in other sectors. F.A. & C.A.O. mentioned that such schemes may be feasible if voluntary contribution and amount to be paid are uniform for all cadres of the Board staff. He also mentioned that any payment, other than one under the duly constituted insurance cover, would be liable to payment of incometax, including ex-gratia payments from a welfare fund. After considerable discussion, it was decided to quickly frame a scheme after examining the important aspects, i.e.

(a) Coverage and contribution slabs without making the scheme in the nature of an insurance, (b) scheme with uniform rates of contribution and insurance cover. (c) Liability to pay income tax on amounts received.

(7) Revision of percentage over-head charges.

8. The action taken was noted.

(8) Representation of Pani Purawatha-Drainage Kamgar Sangh, Pune.

9. Note was taken of the action being taken.

Item No.3 :- Grant of Administrative Approval to Igatpuri Water Supply Scheme-Stage-III (District-Nasik)

10. The C.E, (Urban) explained the proposal. In reply

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to enquiries from Members, he mentioned that adequate water would be available and the scheme is expected to be self-supporting within a period of 5 years with the projected water rate structure prescribed in the proposal. The proposal was approved and the following Resolution was passed :-

"Resolved that :

The Board accords administrative approval to the "New Igatpuri Water Supply Scheme" costing Rs. 105.00 lakhs and authorises the Board to take it up as the Board's scheme to be entirely financed out of O.M.B loan and to make water available to industries and to Municipal Council, Igatpuri in bulk."

11. Arising from discussions on the item, the Chairman referred to the problem of unsatisfactory maintenance of rural water supply schemes by local bodies and difficulties involved in recovering the expdr. being incurred by the Board on maintenance of rural water supply schemes. The Vice-Chairman observed that if water charges are made part of the Land Revenue dues as a water-cess, the difficulties involved in recovery of M & R dues and their receipt by the Board could be solved. After considering the actions being taken by R.D.D. ( as mentioned by D.S., R.D.D.) about recovery of dues in pursuance of amendment effected in the M.S.Z.P. Act, 1961, it was decided to examine the following aspects for solution to the problem, as suggested by the Chairman :-

a) Feasibility of collection of dues by the Board directly from consumers.

b) Collection through Revenue authorities as a part of annual Land Revenue.

c) Payment of Advance to the Board by Government to enable the Board to meet the expdr, pending recovery from local bodies.

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Member Secretary  
M.W.S.S.B. Bom

12. The Chairman enquired about the problem of recovery of water supply dues in Urban areas. The C.E. (Urban) explained that there was no problem wherever water was supplied directly to consumers from Board water works; but considerable amounts were in arrears from Municipal Councils, to which water was provided in bulk and Municipal Councils supplied water to consumers through the distribution system owned by them. The Chairman directed that suitable proposals should be framed for taking over distribution system from such M.Cs. to tide over the problem.

Item No.4 : Progress Report on Urban Water Supply and Sewerage Schemes in Maharashtra State.

13. The Chief Engineer(Urban) described the progress of schemes with reference to Agenda Note. As requested by the Chairman, the M.S. explained the various stages involved in preparation, approval and execution of Municipal Schemes. The C.E.(Urban) referred to the necessity of taking up New schemes for water supply to untackled towns. He mentioned that these M.Cs. had intimated that they are unable to pay even ten percent minimum contribution and maintain the schemes as Municipal Schemes. They, therefore, have been proposing that the schemes may be implemented as Board Schemes. In this context, C.E.(U) pointed out that to obviate the problem, the Board has proposed to Govt. to approve the schemes as Board schemes (for instance, Patur and Telhara) and sanction Grant-in-aid to Board at the prescribed rate at which the Govt. would have sanctioned Grant-in-Aid to M.Cs., had the schemes been taken up as Municipal Schemes. The proposals, however, were still awaiting approval of Govt. The Chairman directed that the matter should be taken up with Govt. at the level of the Chairman, for expediting approval.

14. The Chairman also directed that the actions for taking up and completing the schemes to meet the scarcity conditions should be taken on priority.

Item No.5 : Approval to excess involved in Four Tenders cases from Ahmednagar District.

15. The proposal was approved and the following Resolution was passed :-

"The Board approves the excess involved in following tenders from Ahmednagar District.

- i) Chapalgaoon R.P.W.S.Scheme - Designing, providing and constructing R.C.C. E.S.R. of 60,000 litres -  
Excess over sanctioned cost - Rs.33,365/-
- ii) Hingangaon R.P.W.S. Schemes- Designing, providing and constructing R.C.C.E.S.R. of 50,000 litres -  
Excess over sanctioned cost - Rs.32,066/-
- iii) Ningaon Ganurda R.P.W.S.Scheme- Designing, providing and Constructing R.C.C. E.S.R. of 50,000 litres-  
Excess over sanctioned cost - Rs.34,066/-
- iv) Kautha R.P.W.S.Scheme - Designing, providing and constructing R.D.C.E.S.R. of 50,000 litres Excess over sanctioned cost - Rs.43,066/-

Table item No.I : Approval to the excess involved in acceptance of a tender from ENE Works Division, Dhule.

16. With the permission of the Chair, the M.S. circulated the proposal for consideration and approval of the Board. The C.E.(U) explained the circumstances in which the proposal was required to be put up as a Table Item.

17. The proposal was approved and the following Resolution was passed :-

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"The Board approves an excess of Rs. 3,32,300/- over the sanctioned estimated provision of Rs. 5,38,700/- involved in acceptance of the offer of Shri J.J.Oswal for Rs.8,71,000/- for the work of R.C. .,E.S.R. of 11,50,000 capacity for Shahada Water Supply Scheme".

Item No.6:- Medical benefit rules for Board Employees.

18. The M.S.explained in details the background of the case leading to present proposal,particularly the fact that both the alternatives suggested by Govt. and mentioned in paragraph 3 of the Agenda Note were not practicable. The Chairman enquired about the views of the Board employees on the proposal and the M.S.replied that the instant proposal was entirely acceptable to them. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman emphasised the necessity of finalisation of all service Regulations together instead of their finalisation in lots. The M.S. assured that necessary actions would be taken on priority basis. The Chairman thereafter observed that in the context of the demand of employees of the Board to reverse their status to Govt. servants, it would be pertinent<sup>to</sup> to examine as to which set of service regulations proposed by the Board were similar to Govt. rules and which differed from the same. The C.E. (Project) explained that different rules had to be framed in some respects by virtue of loss of status by employees as Govt. employees. If, therefore, the employees'grievances are to be met, it is necessary to bring into effect suitable rules which would tide-over the difficulties involved in continuing to follow Govt.rules, inspite of the fact that the employees to be covered by the rules are no more Govt. servants. The Chairman thereupon indicated that in such circumstances, approval of Govt. to the draft regulations for Medical benefit rules should be expedited.

It was then brought to the notice of the Board that approval of Govt. is still awaited to several draft regulations already framed by the Board and sent to Govt. Thus, if availability of facilities to the employees as per the Medical Benefit Rules as framed by the Board is delayed for want of approval of Govt., considerable time would elapse and would aggravate the discontent felt by Board employees due to the hardships experienced by them. It was therefore absolutely necessary to bring the rules into effect immediately. The F.A. & C.A.O. pointed out that it is necessary to bring into effect draft regulations framed by the Board only after approval of Govt.

19. Taking into consideration the necessity of solving the difficulties faced by the Board employees, it was, however, decided to **bring** into effect the Medical benefit rules w.e. from April/1982 and the following Resolution was passed :-

" Resolved that the medical reimbursement claims of the employees of the Board may be settled according to Medical Benefit Rules 1980 approved by the Board in its 17th Meeting held on 14-10-1980 and sent to Govt. for approval, in anticipation of Govt. approval, in order to prevent hardship to the Board's employees. The Rules should be made applicable with effect from April, 1982."

Item No.7 :- Appointment of Legal Adviser.

20. The Chairman observed that since the Board had made appointment for six months, action should have been taken in good time before expiry of the stipulated period to put up suitable proposal to the Board. The M.S. conceded that this requirement remained to be complied with for a long time and assured that such instances would not recur. Thereafter, the proposal was approved and the following Resolution was passed.

"Resolved that approval to the continuation of services of Shri G.G.Loney as Legal Adviser for the period from 1-11-81 to 10-6-1982 (Post facto) and from 11-6-1982 to 5-3-84 is hereby

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accorded by the Board, on the same terms and conditions as communicated to vide Board letter No. MWSSB/842/Acctts. dated 6-3-1981".

Item No. 8 : Appointment of Shri C.J. MALKANI, as Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer.

21. After confirmation by the M.S. the presumption that Shri Malkani was not associated with any organisation or individual having financial dealings with the Board and after appointment as F.A. & C.A.O. he is not doing the work of any other institution also, the proposal was approved and the following Resolution was passed :-

"Resolved that Expost facto approval to the appointment of Shri C.J. Malkani a retired Indian Audit & Accounts Service Officer be accorded on contract basis for a period of one year with effect from 18th October 1982 as a Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer of the Board on the revised terms and conditions detailed in the Annexure attached to this resolution. Further resolved that the Member Secretary of the Board is hereby authorised to sign the contract on behalf of the Board and issue an appointment order on the terms and conditions given in the draft terms of agreement."

✓ Item No. 9 :- Raising of the Open Market Borrowing of Rs. 225/- lakhs during 1982-83.

22. The proposal was approved and the following Resolution was passed :-

"Resolved that the Board hereby requests Government of Maharashtra in Urban Development Department to permit the Board to raise the Open Market Borrowing of Rs. 225/- lakhs for 15 years at 7.5% per annum for 1982-83 with permission to retain 10% excess subscription, under Government guarantee, vide sections 31 and 33 of Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act, 1976."

Item No. 10 :- M.W.S. & S. Project -IDA 899-IN-Tender for design-ing, construction, equipping, testing and commissioning Water Treatment Plant at Temghar.

23. The Chief Engineer (Project) explained the location, scope and purpose of the Treatment Plant.

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Member Secretary  
MWSSB

The Member Secretary then explained the points involved in the Agenda Note. As requested by him, the C.E.(Urban) thereafter explained the report of the Team of Senior Engineers.

24. The S.E.(Project) and M.S.provided following

clarifications to the Board :-

(i) Rupees cost of foreign exchange component is ultimately charged to the Project, but the tender of M/s Hindustan Construction Co. includes this cost.

(ii) Foreign Exchange requirement is Rs.1.67 crores and Rs. 18 lakhs in the tenders of M/s Hindustan Construction Co. and M/s Geo Miller & Co., respectively.

(iii) If the tenderers considered it necessary to deviate from specifications, they had to give two offers, one as per specifications and other as per their proposals. However, both the tenderers have made only one offer.

(iv) Difficulty has arisen because both technical and financial offers have been opened simultaneously.

(v) After invitation of tenders, M/s Geo Miller were replied to their queries that specifications tendered should be adhered to.

(vi) Though some of the variations proposed in the specifications by M/s Hindustan Construction Co. would meet the operational requirements of the Plant, the same are likely to affect the life of the structures compared to the structures as per the specifications given while inviting the tender.

(vii) Though Customs Duty is to be excluded while considering I.C.B. tenders, as per conditions prescribed by the World Bank; the Customs Duty, if not waived by Govt. of India, would have to be charged to the Project.

25. After considering the clarifications provided by the C.E.(Project), M.S. and the report of the team of Senior Engineers, it was decided to take further suitable actions, as per the second alternative suggested by Government of India,

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Ministry of Works and Housing, in their letter No.M-14014/32/81-PHE, dated the 21st October, 1982 (Annexure-VI to the Agenda Note) reproduced below :-

"(ii) M.W.S.S.B. may invite fresh bids only from the two firms, namely, M/s Hindustan Construction Co. and M/s Geo Miller and Co.(P) Ltd."

It was also decided to consider the deviations offered after taking into account quality, durability and profitability of the related structures and to obtain concurrence of the World Bank to the second alternative suggested by Govt. of India and accepted by the Board, before further actions are taken as per the said alternative.

NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD.

26. It was tentatively decided to convene the next 30th Meeting of the Board in the first week of February, mainly to consider the Agenda Items which have been already prepared but could not be put up for 29th Meeting due to limited time.

The Meeting thereafter concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair.

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*M. W. S. S. B.*  
Member Secretary,  
M.W.S.S.B. Bombay.