

Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
693 Massachusetts Avenue
Acton, MA 01720

January 14, 2008

Agenda: Comments from Citizens
 Accept Minutes of December 17, 2007

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Assabet #3 Water Quality
Draft Budget Update

NEW BUSINESS

UV Proposal from Wright-Pierce for Christofferson Well
Invoice from Wyndcliff Drive Homeowners' Association
Silver Hill Residents for Water Quality Concerns
WLMAC: Status Update and Questions Regarding the North Acton Water Quality Problem

Minutes of January 14, 2008 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti, Phillips, and Stuntz. Also in attendance were District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary J. Bates, District Counsel Mary Bassett, and Environmental Manager Jane Ceraso. Representing the Finance Committee was Member Bill Kingman and from ACES were Mary Michelman and George Johnston.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M.

Comments from Citizens – Silver Hill Residents for Water Quality Concerns

The meeting opened with the following comments from the Silver Hill residents on their water quality concerns:

Greg Doelp of 13 Silver Hill Road informed the Commissioners of the sediment problem he has been having at his residence. He stated that it was out of control and that filters didn't help. He did say that the quality of water has improved since one of the valves was shut off on December

21st. He felt that shutting of the valve solved the problem as opposed to the flushing. Mr. Allen stated that the flushing drew water from Parker Street and may have caused more of a problem and then the valve was closed and water was pulled from High Street.

Malcolm Pluskal of 19 Silver Hill Road stated that he couldn't tell if there were any changes by looking at his old filter. He felt that all the Silver Hill Road residents should use the same type of filter (10 micron cartridge) and they should be replaced at the same time. He thought a system should be worked out that each resident would receive an email.

Susan Richmond of 17 Gioconda Avenue said that she is having the same problem at her residence and that this has been happening for the last couple of years. She also stated that it was terrible this past December, but has improved after December 21st. She was concerned about the causes of drinking the water and Mr. Stuntz replied that he was confident that it is not a health problem. She inquired about the location of water that was being tested and Ms. Ceraso explained the testing process. Ms. Richmond asked if scattered testing will be done in the surrounding streets and should the residents telephone the Acton Water District when there is a problem and the Commissioners replied that they should inform the AWD.

A resident questioned whether the problem with the water could be due to the pumping of the sewer distribution system.

Mary Michelman (ACES) asked the Commissioners if the residents could have any guidance from the AWD on filters and she was informed that this information will be available on the AWD website. She also asked if the AWD would be willing to reach out in a proactive way to the residents instead of waiting for them to call.

The Commissioners suggested that the neighbors discuss when dirty water occurs and have one resident inform the AWD. Susan Richmond of 17 Gioconda Avenue offered to be the spokes person for her street.

Mr. Parenti requested to have the filters tested and asked Ms. Ceraso if she knew which lab to send the testing and she responded that they must be specific with what testing they are looking for and she will be looking for a lab that will do custom designed tests.

Mr. Phillips listed the parameters that need to be looked at and stated that it was very complex. He feels that in the end this will be a distribution issue.

The Commissioners decided that a test plan will be in place in approximately one month and will be published on the AWD web site. The Silver Hill Road and Gioconda Avenue residents will be informed. They will also be informed when experiments will be taking place.

Approve Minutes of December 17, 2007

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 17, 2007 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of approving the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Assabet #3 Water Quality

Mr. Allen gave the Commissioners an update on Assabet #3 and reviewed the laboratory water quality results. Mr. Stuntz asked the overall impression of the water quality and Mr. Allen responded that Manganese was still an issue and that a low level (0.56 ppb) of 1,4 dioxane was detected during the pump test. The Massachusetts Drinking Water Guideline for 1,4 dioxane is 50 ppb. Mr. Stuntz asked what the next step will be and Mr. Allen responded that a Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA) will be done next week.

Draft Budget Update/Warrant Articles

The Commissioners reviewed the changes to the draft budget which included the Engineering line item being raised to \$30K and an adjustment to the Salaries & Wages line item per the Commissioners request. Ms. Bates stated that the six month figures are now actual numbers.

The changes to the draft Warrant Articles include a dollar amount reduction to Article #10 to \$35,000 due to the proposal from Stantec. Article 13 has been added to transfer \$100,000 from Surplus Revenue for the purchase and installation of an ultraviolet disinfection reactor at the Christofferson Well on School Street.

Ms. Bassett will assign the articles to the Commissioners and they will be available at the next Commissioners meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

UV Proposal from Wright-Pierce for Christofferson Well

Mr. Allen supplied the Commissioners with a copy of the UV Proposal that he received from Wright-Pierce for the Christofferson Well. The proposal consists of three phases which include Water Quality Evaluation (Phase 1), Design (Phase 2), and Bidding and Construction Phase Services (Phase 3). The proposed budgetary cost is \$27,100 for the three phases.

Mr. Allen discussed how there are tubes in a pressure cell (almost like a heat exchanger) and also that there is a wiper located in the tubes to clear the sledge. Mr. Allen will email the presentation to the Commissioners that he received from Wright-Pierce.

Invoice from Wyndcliff Drive Homeowners' Association

Mr. Allen gave a copy of the letter he received from 14 Wyndcliff Drive regarding the funding of the Wyndcliff Drive Homeowners' Association. The cost to the Acton Water District for upkeep to the road will amount to \$250.00.

WLMAC: Status Update and Questions Regarding the North Acton Water Quality Problem

The WLMAC updated the Commissioners on the North Acton water quality problem and addressed some questions/concerns.

Mr. Rosen stated that he had some short and long term thoughts to share and felt that there is an immediate need to do something. He suggested two possible well filters and that the Zenon filter worked. He felt that the District should look into relocating one or more of the wells to see if there is a water quality improvement.

Mr. Malchodi said that the pilot study report doesn't inform them of specific problems and Mr. Parenti responded that the Commissioners asked for the pilot study to only look at filtration. Mr. Malchodi said that they would have to go back to the voters for the additional \$2M. He also asked what the WLMAC should do next and that they need a set of written goals (high level).

Mr. Rosen stated that he felt the Acton Water District should have a 25-30 year strategic plan and that they have to start looking at what it will eventually cost for water. Mr. Phillips said that he feels they should look into a 10 year plan.

Mr. Allen said that some investigations into relocating the wells had been conducted under Jim Deming several years back.

Mr. Stuntz said that the bids are going out this week. Mr. Phillips said that they want confirmation that Zenon is the most effective way to treat and Mr. Parenti was concerned that the test didn't work the first time around. Mr. Kingman felt that not enough information was available and that this was a lot of money to get clean water and not more water. Mr. Allen stated that if a well was moved from Kennedy, who's to say in two years we won't be back where we started.

Ms. Bates stated that last year when the article was proposed, only 15 people from North Acton were at the meeting.

The result will be that the WLMAC will develop the process and report back to the Commissioners.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Mr. Allen recommended that an additional article be added for directional flushing. He has a proposal from Stantec and the cost would be \$41K for the rest of the town of Acton. He also believes that the Engineering costs should be included in the warrant article.

Mr. Stuntz moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.