

Water Supply District of Acton

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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2011

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, January 24, 2011 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present: Commissioners Stephen Stuntz, Ronald Parenti, and Leonard Phillips. District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary Jo Bates, District Counselor Mary Bassett, Commissioners Secretary Lynn Protasowicki. Finance Committee member(s) David Butler and Bill Kingman. Barry Rosen representing WRAC and WLMAC.

A. Comments from Citizens

Mr. Allen reviewed with the Commissioners a letter that was sent by Joan Houlihan-Howlett of 242 Parker Street, Acton (Ms. Howlett could not make the meeting this evening) are requesting an interest-free loan for as long as five years. The AWD installed a water connection for Parker Street six years ago and the Howlett's were unable to pay for the work and fees needed to connect to town water. They do not drink their water due to the high concentration of iron so they purchase bottle water. Due to some recent hardships, they are finding it "financially impossible" to "hook up to town water".

Mr. Allen stated that the total cost to get them connected plus materials, tapping the main and meter fees would be around \$5,500.

Mr. Phillips raised the point that the Town provides tax relief to seniors under certain questions and suggested that the AWD consider some kind of assistance to help senior citizens in town undergoing financial hardship. Ms. Bates stated that when folks connect to town sewer they put the betterment onto their bill so theoretically the AWD could put the charge onto their water bill. Ms. Bates also stated that the Board had similar discussions about a year ago to not give loans to people per a request by another resident.

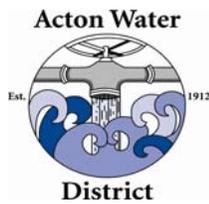
Mr. Phillips asked the Finance Committee what they thought about the "loan". Mr. Rosen stepped in and stated that they could tap into the 2% State Revolving Fund (SRF). Mr. Kingman stated that the town now has a social worker who works with senior citizens on all types of issues which these folks could speak with.

Mr. Allen will contact the Howlett's and provide them with their options:

- 1.) interest free loan for 1 year through AWD
- 2.) state revolving fund
- 3.) Town social worker to help look into some sort of state assistance

B. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2011

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on January 10, 2011 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes.



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C. New Business

Request from Resident at 50 Hayward Road for First Quarter 2011 Water Bill Abatement

Mr. Allen reviewed with the Commissioners a letter sent by Hong Lu of 50 Hayward Road, Acton (Mr. Allen was not able to contact the homeowner to request they attend the meeting) who is requesting an abatement. On December 22, 2010, AWD sent a letter to Hong Lu informing the homeowner of a high water usage due to a leak in the service line downstream of the pit meter. The Commissioners stated that once the pit meter has been moved inside the residence, the owner may receive the abatement, as has been precedent.

Update on Meeting with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that his meeting with the MA DEP had been cancelled so there is no update to give. The meeting has been rescheduled for February 2, 2011.

Other New Business:

Annual Report

Mr. Allen stated that the look of the annual report has been “toned down/very basic”. There is no color cover and black & white ink has been used throughout. By going all black & white they saved about ½ the cost to generate and distribute the report last year. The Commissioners are happy with the report.

D. Old Business

Discussion & Approval of FY 2012 Budget & Warrant.

FY12 Budget

In a separate meeting, the Finance Committee approved the budget as presented.

The final approved FY2012 Budget amount is \$3,424,103.00

Warrant Articles

Counselor Bassett stated that she and Ms. Bates reviewed the other District cell tower leases and could not set a minimum annual rental charge because there is nothing comparable to what the District will be requesting in the RFP for Wyndcliff Drive because of the 100’ tower and requirement of construction of an access road. The Article 15 will read “...the written lease shall include an annual rental charge of the best and highest rental income received in response to a request for proposal...”

The Commissioners voted to approve the Final Warrant Articles and Final Budget for FY 2012.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the FY2012 Budget and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

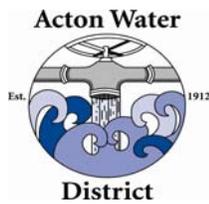
Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the Warrant Articles and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of accepting the Warrant Articles as presented.

The Commissioners were assigned to individual Warrant Articles (1-16) in rotation as follows:

1. Stephen C. Stuntz
2. Leonard A. Phillips
3. Ronald R. Parenti

Update on Proposed Special Legislation Involving the District’s Investment Protocol.

Counselor Bassett stated that the general legislation for investment of trust like funds in all districts and towns has been filed by Senator Eldridge (Senate Docket # 76).



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Counselor Bassett stated that the Commissioners need to vote on the proposed legislation that would allow the AWD to invest the WR Grace fund in accordance with the prudent investor rule.

Mr. Stuntz moved to petition the state legislature to adopt legislation in the form attached hereto which would allow the Water Supply District of Acton to invest the WR Grace fund in accordance with the prudent investor rules. Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of the motion.

Representative Corey Atkins will file the special legislation on behalf of the Acton Water District.

Update & Discussion of Proposed Special Legislation by the Town of Boxborough.

Mr. Allen stated that based upon the recent meeting that AWD the Town of Boxborough, and Town of Acton recently had it was determined that the 1963 legislation needed to be slightly amended to address all the needs of Boxborough. In addition, an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) needs to be created that would explain the process of exploring new sources of water in The Town of Boxborough.

Counselor Bassett stated that the Town of Boxborough will be the proponent in front of the Water Resource Commission and that this will be added to the 1963 legislation.

There will be a follow-up meeting on February 3, 2011.

The Commissioners discussed the need to vote to authorize District Manager to enter into an IMA agreement.

Mr. Stuntz moved to authorize Mr. Chris Allen, District Manager, to enter into an IMA agreement with the Town of Boxborough. Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of the motion.

Update on Assabet Sand & Gravel Encroachment on District Land off High Street.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he had spoken with Mr. Maccone of Assabet Sand & Gravel regarding his friendship with Mr. Robert Durand, former Director of The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Mr. Durand was supposedly going to give his "expert" opinion on the Assabet S & G encroachment on Water District land off High Street. Mr. Allen is still waiting to hear from Mr. Tom Tidman, Town of Acton Conservation Officer, on any potential violations of The Wetlands Protection Act; and, if he had been able to visit the site.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that since his meeting with the MA DEP had been cancelled; he had been unable to speak with Marielle Stone on the subject, so there is no information to report from that discussion. The meeting has been rescheduled for February 2, 2011.

Other Old Business:

North Acton Water Treatment Plant Plaque

Mr. Parenti wanted to address the issue of a plaque for the North Acton Water Treatment Plant. He believes that this is a great way of preserving history and that it's important to have one created for the new plant. The Commissioners agree. Mr. Allen will put together the wording for the Commissioners to review and approve.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.