

# Acton Water District

WINTER 2026

## Water Words Notice

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 18th at 6:00 pm at the Acton Public Safety Facility located at 371 Main Street. This edition of our *Water Words Notice* also includes the Warrant Articles to be voted on at this meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the budget, reviewing reports on activities of the District during the past year, or reviewing a complete copy of the Independent Auditors report, the Annual Report of the District is available at [www.actonwater.com/annualreport](http://www.actonwater.com/annualreport).

### Adding New Talent to the Pipeline

This winter, we welcomed a new Treasurer/Collector, Ashley Pinard, and a new Water Systems Laborer, Christian Lima. Running an independent water district requires the full gamut of skills and backgrounds, both in the office and out in the field! Ashley comes to us with 14 years of municipal and state experience ranging from law enforcement to public works administration and procurement. Christian brings seven years of automotive experience and a background in HVAC from Greater Lowell Technical School. We're excited to welcome Ashley and Christian to the team and look forward to growing their skills in public water system operations and administration.

We also welcomed a new District Clerk, Joe Robb, to fulfill the term of William Stanford, who moved out of Acton. Joe has been involved in the community for over 20 years and was one of two of your neighbors that volunteered to finish this term, ending after the 2026 Town Election. We thank both Clerks

for choosing to serve the community and encourage you to get involved in the success of your local water system.

### Paying for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

We are excited to announce that the PFAS filtration facilities at both the South Acton Water Treatment Plant and the Center Acton Water Treatment Plant have been granted conditional approval by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and are fully operational! As of the publication of this newsletter, the District's three active water treatment facilities are removing PFAS from your drinking water. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the community for your patience and support as we worked to complete these improvements quickly and cost effectively. Although we have reached a major milestone in addressing PFAS in our community, the work is far from complete, and you will continue to hear about the impacts of PFAS on our operations.

Through design and bidding decisions, we expect the total cost to be below the borrowing limits approved by voters in 2023 and 2024. Additionally, our early action to address PFAS resulted in free interim financing, 0% permanent financing, and \$2,418,827 in principal forgiveness (13.5% of total project costs) granted by the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The District has also received approximately \$2.3 Million, to date, in settlement funds from lawsuits against manufacturers 3M and Dupont. Pending further action by voters, it has grown

to approximately \$2.4 Million in a pooled deposit account for Massachusetts public entities. Additional settlement funds from manufacturers Tyco, BASF, and Kidde-Fenwal are anticipated over the next 10 years. The District has also submitted special needs claims that are tied to direct PFAS related expenses/losses incurred through August 2025. Additional efforts exist to identify other parties that may bear responsibility for the PFAS impacts to our water supply, including producers of PFAS containing products and local users/disposers of PFAS.



**Christian Lima, Water Systems Laborer, and Ashley Pinard, Treasurer/Collector, in our front lobby (above). Joe Robb, District Clerk, certifying the warrant (right).**

*continued on page 4*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Middlesex, ss.



To the Clerk of the Water Supply District of Acton, GREETINGS:

You are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Acton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to assemble at their precinct:

All Precincts voting at Blanchard Auditorium  
R.J. Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts

On Tuesday, April 28, 2026 • Between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.  
Then and there to bring their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

**Commissioner for three years**  
**Clerk for three years**

You are further directed to notify the legal voters of the Town of Acton, as aforesaid, to assemble at:

Acton Public Safety Facility, 371 Main Street, Acton, Massachusetts 01720

**On Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 6:00 P.M.**

Then and there to act on the following Articles:

**Article 1.** To fix salaries of the elected officials.

**Article 2.** To act on the reports of the Commissioners, the Treasurer, and other officers and committees of the District.

**Article 3.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 4.** To see what sums of money the District will vote to raise and appropriate to defray the usual expenses of the District.

**Article 5.** To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for Mitigation," or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 6.** To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for New Service Meter Installations," or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 7.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 to clean and rehabilitate existing wells throughout the District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 8.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of replacing old water mains, renewing old water services, and replacing old fire hydrants, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 9.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of repairing emergency water main breaks, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 for the replacement of filtration media at the District's water treatment plants, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 11.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$30,000 for Website ADA compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA required by April 26, 2027, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 12.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$150,000 for the management of the North Acton Water Treatment Plant filtration residuals or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** To see if the District will vote transfer from Surplus Revenue \$250,000 for the engineering and costs associated with repairs and improvements to the Flagg Hill Tank, piping, disinfection systems, and access road or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$500,000 for improvements to the District's water distribution system and water mains in Acton or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts general laws Chapter 44 section 53 to establish a special revenue fund to be known as the "PFAS Settlement Fund", said funds upon appropriation to be expended for any purpose allowed pursuant to the 3M and Dupont settlements as voted by a future District meeting or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 16.** To see if the District will vote to transfer the sum of \$330,000 from the PFAS Settlement Fund for the FY27 expenses for the North Acton Water Treatment Plant PFAS system lease, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 17.** To see if the District will vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the PFAS Settlement Fund for PFAS Media Replacement, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 18.** To see if the District will vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the PFAS Settlement Fund to reimburse the FY26 General Fund for emergency water interconnections with Littleton and Concord, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Hereof fail not and make due returns of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Water Commissioners on or before the time of holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand this 23rd day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Erika Amir-Lin  
Barry Rosen  
Stephen C. Stuntz  
*Water Commissioners*

A true copy. ATTEST:

Joe Robb  
*District Clerk*

## PFAS *continued from page 1*

Again, these potential claims are still pending.

To direct the use of these settlement funds, the Board of Water Commissioners appointed a PFAS Settlement Funds Working Group, consisting of the District Manager, Deputy District Manager, Treasurer/Collector, one Finance Committee member, and one Board member to evaluate and recommend options for the prudent use of these funds. Based on the Working Group's recommendations, the Board voted to set aside a portion of the settlement funds received to date in a Special Revenue Fund for future PFAS-related costs and to utilize a portion of the settlement funds received to offset PFAS-related expenses in the current and upcoming fiscal year. Both of these actions require voter approval at the District's Annual Meeting to be held on March 18th at 6:00 PM at the Acton Public Safety Facility. In the current budget, this will utilize approximately 25% of funds in hand to prevent a variable rate increase for the upcoming fiscal year. As part of the decision-making process, the fixed fee portion of your water bill will increase over the next 3 years before declining when debt from the original North Acton Water Treatment Plant is retired. Given the favorable financing discussed earlier, it was decided not to apply settlement funds to the debt at this time.

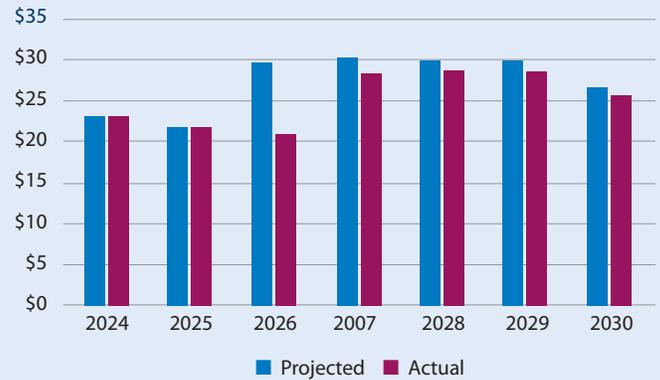
The District's PFAS-related costs are significant and include 1) capital items, such as construction of the recently completed PFAS filtration facilities and 2) operational items, such as ongoing filter media replacement and disposal, laboratory analysis fees, etc. Capital costs have been minimized to the maximum extent possible through the District's early response to the contamination, which secured the favorable borrowing terms and principal forgiveness. Operational costs are being offset through the use of a portion of the PFAS settlement funds. However, future PFAS-related costs are highly unpredictable, which is why the District is seeking to establish an interest-bearing Special Revenue Fund, which will help to mitigate the impact of unknown future costs. The District continues to assess the sources of PFAS in our aquifers in order to better understand additional opportunities for reducing the contamination and pursuing cost recovery.

## Volunteer on the Water District's Finance Committee!

**W**e wish Ron Parenti a fond farewell upon his resignation from the Finance Committee and recognize over 35 years of dedicated service to the District.

He has been a Finance Committee member, a Commissioner, and began his service on the Water and Management Committee. With Ron's resignation, a rare opportunity for interested volunteers is available. The Finance Committee, consisting of three voters of the District, is appointed by the District Moderator to review the budget for the Annual Meeting and make recommendations to the Commissioners on any matters of a financial nature arising out of an Annual or Special Meeting. No member of the Finance Committee may serve any other

## Monthly Debt Fee



First introduced in 2013, the debt fee provides a reliable, fixed revenue source for repayment of monies borrowed by the Acton Water District to complete large capital projects. While the fee has been gradually decreasing in recent years, completion of the PFAS filtration facilities initiates repayment of the \$16 Million borrowed from the Clean Water Trust, resulting in a \$7.21 increase in the monthly debt fee for our customers in Fiscal Year 2027. As the chart above illustrates, our debt service payments are consistently lower than projected due to the very favorable loan terms received by the District. A reliable, fixed revenue source for repayment of debt is one of the many things that allow us to maintain an AA+ bond rating with our lenders.

standing committee of the District or the Town of Acton having to do with expenditure of funds. The Committee meets periodically and one member is designated to attend every third Commissioners meeting (which occur biweekly) on a rotating basis. Please reach out to Bill Mullin, District Moderator, or Matthew Mostoller, District Manager, at [moderator@actonwater.com](mailto:moderator@actonwater.com) for more information or to express your interest.

## Level 4 Water Use Restriction Still in Effect

**A**s we head into the Spring, please remember that persistent drought conditions since last year and ongoing operational constraints as our PFAS filtration facilities are brought online have placed us in a Level 4 Water Use Restriction (i.e., no outdoor water uses except for production of food and fiber or public health and safety). We thank you for your cooperation and any water conservation efforts that you observe. The District will be targeting our spring flushing program on critical areas to help minimize demand during the early spring. Updates on the status of our outdoor water use restrictions in the imminent future will be communicated on our website (<https://www.actonwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-restrictions>), through our WaterSmart program, and via Twitter and Facebook @ActonWater.



### Let it rain if you want to save!

**A**re you looking for an easy way to support our community's climate resilience while also saving money on your water bill? Look no further than our discounted rain barrel program! Rainwater harvesting can reduce demands on the District's system and save energy at our treatment plants, while also improving stormwater management and providing an alternate water source for outdoor use during drought conditions. Preorder your discounted rain barrel(s) today by visiting <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/> and selecting Massachusetts and Acton. The deadline for ordering is April 26th by 11:59 pm. Rain barrels must be picked up on Thursday, May 7th between 2pm and 6pm at the District office located at 693 Massachusetts Avenue.

### What was it?

Our last photo had three correct identifications, congratulations! This is a part of a vertical turbine pump, used to pump water from some of our wells (others use submersible pumps), clearwells, and pump stations. Like most of the equipment we operate, vertical turbine pumps require ongoing monitoring and maintenance, as well as periodic rebuilds and replacements. Thank you to James Hayes, Brad Milnes, and Kamal Nanduri for taking the time to read our Summer newsletter and respond.



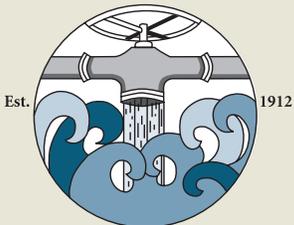
Although not correct, Sylvia Lotspeich Greene, had the most creative response, "This beautiful device is the Acton Water District's answer to one of the questions on its 2024 "Employee Satisfaction Questionnaire," namely, "Which of the following foods/beverages would be your favorite during your morning break?" 79% of the respondents chose "a blueberry smoothie." This device is the resulting Blueberry Smoothie Maker, designed by an AWD staffer and created by a 3D printer. Note the circular component on the left side, which can be rotated to control the chunkiness or smoothness of each smoothie." Thank you for brightening our day!

### What is it?

Please email your answers to [webgeek@actonwater.com](mailto:webgeek@actonwater.com). Winners (and the correct answer) will be posted in the next *Water Words Notice*. Customers with a correct answer, as determined by AWD staff, may receive a prize—in addition to the fame of having your name published in this space!



## Acton Water



## District

P.O. Box 953  
Acton, MA 01720

*Water Words Notice* is published twice a year for all customers of the Acton Water District

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Barry Rosen