

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

March 24, 2008

Agenda:           Comments from Citizens  
                  Accept Minutes of March 10, 2008

**OLD BUSINESS**

Documentation for Knox Trail Eminent Domain Land Taking  
Bid Summary for Indian Village Water Main Project  
Discussion of Project Scope Expansion for Indian Village Water Main

**NEW BUSINESS**

Letter from Homeowner at 35 Flint Road Requesting Abatement

Minutes of March 24, 2008 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti and Phillips. Also in attendance were Treasurer/Collector Mary J. Bates, District Counsel Mary Bassett, and Finance Committee Member Bill Kingman. George Johnston was representing ACES.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M.

**Approve Minutes of March 10, 2008**

Mr. Parenti motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 10, 2008 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes.

**Comments from Citizens**

There were no comments from Citizens at tonight's meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Documentation for Knox Trail Eminent Domain Land Taking**

Ms. Bassett informed the Commissioners that the Board has given the authority for the Knox Trail eminent domain land taking. She also said that she will file with the Registry of Deeds and attach a copy of the plan. Mr. Parenti stated that he understood that there was a dispute over the purchase price and Ms. Bassett responded that R & K Partners Trust sent a letter questioning the appraisal amount and asked for a copy of the appraisal. Ms. Bassett sent a letter with the copy of the appraisal and hasn't received a response from them. She also informed the Commissioners

that R & K Partners Trust has up to three years to file a suit and that they can also have their own appraisal done.

Mr. Phillips moved and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion that the Commissioners, on behalf of the Water Supply District of Acton, take by eminent domain, for the purpose of protection and conservation of groundwater aquifers and recharge areas, for water supply, well protection and development, watershed protection purposes, and for all things pertinent to its duties as a water district, that certain parcel of property off of Knox Trail in Acton, consisting of approximately 35,308 square feet, as described in Article 15 of the Official Warrant of the Annual Meeting, as voted on March 19, 2008 and pursuant to that authority and the authority granted to the District in its enabling act and by the Massachusetts General Laws, to execute an Order of Taking and to award to the owner of said property for the taking, damages in the amount of \$10,500, the appraised value of the property taken, as determined by Avery Associates, in the appraisal dated September 26, 2007. The Commissioners were in favor of accepting this motion.

The Commissioners supplied Ms. Bassett with appropriate photo identification (Massachusetts Drivers License) and they signed the documentation.

### **Bid Summary for Indian Village Water Main Project**

Included in tonight's Commissioners' package was a letter from Stantec regarding the Indian Village water main replacement project. The letter indicates that 30 bids were received on March 15, 2008 and listed were the five lowest bids that were received.

The estimate for the Indian Village water main project was \$1.2M and the final amount will be \$911,500. The AWD must take the lowest bidder (Proia Construction, Inc.) if they are qualified. The Commissioners will wait for the advice of Stantec which hadn't worked with Proia previously.

Ms. Bassett stated that no action is required at tonight's meeting and that she will have a contract available at the next Commissioners meeting for their signatures.

### **Discussion of Project Scope Expansion for Indian Village Water Main**

No discussion occurred regarding this agenda item as it was decided that Mr. Allen and Mr. Stuntz should be included in the discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Letter from Homeowner at 35 Flint Road Requesting Abatement**

Mr. Zhang from 35 Flint Road described to the Commissioners the problems he is having with brown water coming from his faucet, which occurs mostly in the early morning timeframe. Mr. Zhang showed the Commissioners a picture that he took containing the dirty water and said that it only happens when he runs the cold water. Mr. Parenti asked if any of his neighbors were having the same problem and Mr. Zhang responded that his next door neighbor reported a problem to the AWD. The Commissioners questioned if he had any problems prior to this

incident and Mr. Zhang responded no and stated that the brown color is removed if he runs his faucet for a couple of minutes. The Commissioners suggested that Mr. Zhang speak with other neighbors to see if they are experiencing the same problem. Ms. Bates stated that Mr. Allen informed her that this neighborhood's water hasn't been flushed for approximately 12-18 months and it will be added to the spring schedule which begins the first week of April. Mr. Phillips informed Mr. Zhang that flushing should solve the issue.

Mr. Zhang asked the Commissioners for abatement for a water filter (located on his counter top that is used for drinking purposes) that was ruined. Mr. Parenti asked if the filter was a replaceable cartridge and Mr. Zhang responded that yes and the cost of replacement is \$40.00. Mr. Parenti informed Mr. Zhang that the policy is to decline abatement for this type of occurrence as this is beyond their control. Mr. Phillips described how the abatement was done in the Silver Hill Road area. He stated that this was the only abatement in many years due to a unique flow within the system and that it was for an entire neighborhood which had problems for many months. Mr. Parenti said that the abatement to the Silver Hill Road residents stated very clearly that it was for a specific reason. He informed Mr. Zhang that by-laws state that the Acton Water District isn't responsible for these types of occurrences that are currently happening in his neighborhood.

The Commissioners suggested to Mr. Zhang not to change his filter until after the spring flushing that will begin on April 7<sup>th</sup>. They told him that he should see a significant difference in his water after flushing occurs and if not, please contact the AWD.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Kingman stated that he spoke to Mr. Bradley regarding Ron Schaefer who expressed interest in the Finance Committee member opening and he would like to attend a Commissioners meeting. It was noted that Mr. O'Brien has several candidates that are also interested in the position.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourned the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.