

# Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 953  
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

TELEPHONE (978) 263-9107

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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2012

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2012 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Ronal Parenti.

### **Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chairman), Leonard Phillips, and Stephen Stuntz  
District Manager: Chris Allen  
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates  
District Counselor: Mary Bassett  
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki  
Finance Committee Member(s): Charles Bradley

### **A. Comments from Citizens**

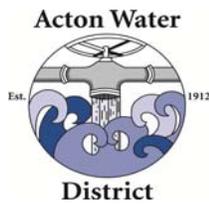
Mr. Harvinder Jassal of 20 Hillcrest Drive was present at tonight's meeting.

Enclosed in this evening's packets to the Commissioners are a letter from Mr. Jassal to Mr. Allen regarding the brown water problem at his home at 20 Hillcrest Drive and a letter from Mr. Allen to Mr. Jassal in response to his complaint.

Mr. Jassal informed the Commissioners that he has had clean water for three days however for the past six months the water has been discolored for some part of the day. He stated that a technician from the Water District came to his home and performed a flush of the service line but that the water is still severely discolored. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that they flushed the pipes in the vicinity of 20 Hillcrest on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and had closed the valve that isolates Hillcrest Drive from School Street. Additionally, Mr. Allen had Wright-Pierce, an engineering consultant, do some hydraulic modeling to confirm that this valve manipulation would not impact available fire flow to the neighborhood. It was theorized that due to the service tap's proximity to a 90°-bend in the water main, this is, most likely, where sediment accumulates during times of low demand, early morning, or late night, , which is where Mr. Jassal's home sits. Mr. Allen informed the group that the water in that entire neighborhood is supplied from the Assabet Well. He stated that the recent valve configuration seems to have temporarily solved the issue which is why Mr. Jassal is noticing clean water.

Mr. Jassal is requesting a rebate as compensation for the past six months because of the brown water and not being able to shower, wash clothes and having to purchase water to be able to drink and cook. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he finds it difficult to quantify a rebate. Mr. Parenti stated that the Board has never given a rebate due to brown water problems. Mr. Parenti informed Mr. Jassal that with the new water treatment facility will rectify the brown water problem that all residents in the South Acton area experience. The Board determined that there will be no rebate given. Mr. Jassal stated that he would contact his lawyer.

Mr. Allen will follow-up with Mr. Jassal to track the progress of the water quality in his home.



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## **B. Approval of Minutes from February 13<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> Meetings**

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2012 and March 5, 2012 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes.

## **C. OLD BUSINESS**

### *Discussion of Water Bill Abatement Request from Homeowner at 253D School Street.*

Mr. Jesus Villasenor and Mrs. Maria Quisumbing of 253D School Street were present at tonight's meeting.

Enclosed in this evening's packets to the Commissioners is a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Villasenor to Mr. Allen regarding the two options for settling their water bill.

Mr. Villasenor spoke to the Commissioners and stated that because they had no access to read the pit meter that they should pay for 1 quarter of the water bill. And, they are requesting that the Water District help subsidize the \$9,000 if they were to replace water line and transfer meter inside their home.

Mr. Parenti asked Mr. Villasenor if they were considering replacing the line. Mr. Villasenor responded that they would consider this only if the Water District would help pay for it. Mr. Villasenor stated that his water bill would have been lower if the leak was caught sooner. Mr. Parenti stated that the leak/break in pipe had to be repaired quickly so the \$3,100 to fix was necessary. Mr. Phillips reminded everyone that this is a unique case and sets a new precedent. This kind of delay with several estimated readings during numerous quarters will not likely happen again.

Mr. Villasenor still believes that they should only pay for one quarter. Mr. Stuntz disagrees. He stated the District will not contribute towards the prior fix (\$3,100) and will abate the \$22,000 if the homeowners replace line, and move the water meter inside the residence at their cost. Mr. Phillips feels some responsibility because District did not contact homeowners sooner.

Mr. Phillips believes that the Water District should help pay for the \$3,100, which was for the replacement of pipe that was leaking. However, Mr. Parenti & Mr. Stuntz disagreed and said that the \$3,100 repair should not be subsidized by the Water District. In addition, the Commissioners all agreed that the Villasenor's will have to pay the \$6,448.70. It was noted that this is the largest abatement in the history of the Acton Water District. Mr. Villasenor concluded by saying that he would not be moving the meter inside his home nor replacing the water line; he agreed to pay the \$6,448.70 due and asked if he could pay it in installments. The Commissioners directed Mr. Villasenor to the District's Treasurer to work out a payment plan.

In conclusion, Ms. Bates will work out a payment plan with Mr. & Mrs. Villasenor. A Water District employee will drop off a refrigerator magnet with instructions so that they can monitor their pit meter as frequently as they desire.

## **D. NEW BUSINESS**

### *Board Realignment and Annual Appointments.*

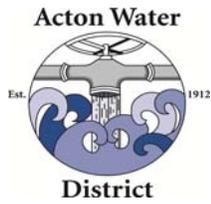
The following appointments and realignments were made by the Commissioners of the Water Supply District of Acton.

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Accountant: Maureen Mara

Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates

All documents referred to in meeting minutes are available for inspection at the office of Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-9107.



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Assistant Treasurer: Chris Allen  
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Mr. Stuntz moved the appointment and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. All were unanimously in favor.

The Board nominated and elected Mr. Ronald Parenti as Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners.

## **E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Parenti moved to go into executive session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss threatened or pending litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and then to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuntz and roll call vote was unanimously taken to go into executive session for the stated purpose.

The open meeting reconvened, and Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**Executive Session Minutes**

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

Executive Session Minutes  
April 2, 2012

The Commissioners voted unanimously by a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss pending or contemplated litigation as remaining in open session would prejudice the District position with respect to the matter. In attendance were Commissioners Len Phillips and Ron Parenti, District Manager Chris Allen, District Treasurer Mary Jo Bates and District Counsel Mary Bassett.

Minutes of Executive Session meetings dated 2/13/12, 1/9/12, 12/5/11, 8/15/11 and 7/25/11 were reviewed and approved with edits.

Attorney Bassett updated the Commissioners on the status of the Assabet Sand trespass case. Chris Allen did a site view of Assabet Sand & Gravel on March 30, 2012 and found no barriers erected, no inspections being done, and machinery in the disputed area, all in violation of the court order dated 1/31/12. Atty. Bassett also advised the Commissioners that the monitoring wells have not been installed and the defense counsel intends to send "waivers of liability" before the installation. The Commissioners confirmed unanimously that no work would be done on District property without certificates of insurance and no such waivers would be executed.

District counsel was instructed to advise the defendants' counsel of the District's position on the waivers and demand compliance with the court order. Also, as the District has received a notice of noncompliance from the DEP on this well site and Assabet Sand & Gravel should be advised that water supply and no trespassing signs will be posted per the notice.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the executive session and moved to reconvene in open session at 9:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parenti and on a roll call vote was unanimously approved.