

Board of Water Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Acton Water District  
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA  
Monday, July 25, 2022

**AGENDA**

- A. Comments from the Public
- B. Approve minutes from the meeting of 6/27/22
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Land Lease with Baldco on District Property at 104 Powdermill Road-Rear
- 2. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  - Current sample data, if available
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory for PFAS
- 3. Discussion of Alteration to the Scope and Scheduling of the 2022 Master Plan Update
- 4. Update on the Assabet #3 Well Project

**E. NEW BUSINESS:**

Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** To consider the purchase, exchange, lease of real property at 549 Main Street as an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District.

Due to the current Executive Order by Governor Charles Baker related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and was recorded. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 25, 2022, by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

**Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

Commissioners: Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen, Stephen Stuntz (Chair)  
District Manager: Chris Allen  
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates  
District Counsel: Mary Bassett  
Assistant District Manager: Matthew Mostoller  
Finance Committee: Chuck Bradley, Ron Parenti  
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Public Present:  
Kim Kastens

**A. Comments from the Public**

Kim Kastens mentioned that there are two members of the Green Acton Water Committee who are also water quality volunteers for OARS (Organization for the Assabet River). Last summer OARS offered the volunteers the opportunity to do a conductivity measurement survey of the tributaries of the rivers that OARS normally samples. The volunteers sampled the tributaries of Fort Pond Brook at twenty-seven different spots throughout Acton. And we found a hot spot that is downstream from where the DPW stores the road salt. It was ambiguous what this meant but the Town is working on a study how to

renovate the DPW site. We brought data to them and if you are interested, we can provide this data to the Commissioners as it is in the Zone 3.

**B. Approve Minutes from the Meeting of 6/27/22**

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 27, 2022. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Rosen, and Mr. Stuntz.

**C. Appoint One Commissioner to Approve Warrants While Conducting Meetings Virtually**

Mr. Stuntz motioned to appoint Barry Rosen as the Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually until the next meeting of the Commissioners. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Land Lease with Baldco on District Property at 104 Powdermill Road-Rear

Mr. Allen stated that there are no updates to report. The lease does expire as of August 1, 2022. He recommends extending the lease until the end of August.

Mr. Rosen motioned to extend the lease with Baldco until September 1, 2022. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Rosen, and Mr. Stuntz.

2. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Current sample data, if available
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory for PFAS
  
- Current sample data, if available

Mr. Allen stated that we are currently serving water from Central, North Acton and South Acton Water Treatment Plants. The Clapp-Whitcomb well has not been used at all this year. We remain in compliance with the PFAS MCL.

Ms. Amir-Lin would like to know if there is any July data available. Matt Mostoller stated that North Acton and Acton Center would have been collected last week. Due to the power outage, we were unable to sample South Acton but plan to sample Wednesday, 7/27.

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory for PFAS

Current web update that was just published. MassDEP is continuing to enforce their contaminant level of 20Parts Per Trillion (ppt). The health advisories for PFOA and PFAS are in the parts per quadrillion. We have to abide by the current Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ppt for six PFAS compounds (PFAS6) enacted by the MA Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP), the District's primacy agency. Once EPA sets an enforceable federal standard we will abide by that.

3. Discussion of Alteration to the Scope and Scheduling of the 2022 Master Plan Update

Mr. Allen stated that he, Matt Mostoller, Mary Jo Bates, and Erika Amir-Lin met with Rich Protasowicki on July 12th. There was a wide range of discussion on ongoing projects. He thought it was a good positive discussion. We discussed the Master Plan at length. Recommendation to hold the Master Plan because of all the ongoing projects. It is our opinion that these projects should come to completion before moving forward on the Master Plan.

Barry Rosen would like an update/briefing from Wright-Pierce on a regular basis. Mr. Allen stated that yes Jim Cray will attend the meetings on a quarterly basis, and next update will be at the meeting on 9/12.

Mr. Allen, Matt Mostoller, and Mary Jo Bates will be meeting on Friday, August 5th with Rich Protasowicki of Wright-Pierce and their new Strategic Planning Director, Jessica Richard.

#### 4. Update on the Assabet #3 Well Project

Mr. Allen stated that he just got an update today. Looking at 50 days total and concluding on September 23rd. The directional drilling was to be completed today. The VFD is scheduled to ship in August and should not hold up the project. We anticipate pump testing to occur in mid- to late September.

#### **Other Old Business:**

Update on Kelley's Corner in Acton-

Bid tab from Mass DOTs Engineer for Kelley's Corner - those bids were opened on July 6th. The winning bid was for \$2,243,530. The projection was \$1,672,270. Our current approved funds are \$2,153,333.41 which is a shortfall of \$90,196 below bid price. We will need a 5% contingency of \$2,443,530 (\$200K shortfall). There is a need for an additional appropriation either at a special district meeting or some other funding source. He had a conversation with Town Manager last week about the possibility of ARPA funds to make up the shortfall. The town will be reevaluating ARPA this summer.

Erika Amir-Lin: was there any feedback why there was such a large differential between projection and bid? Chris Allen: it's the cost on Ductile Iron pipe, primarily. The various sizes on ductile iron which is a large part of the materials. There are pretty significant increases in materials. Erika Amir-Lin: it is definitely worth speaking with the Town in an attempt to get ARPA funds. Chris Allen: he has still not received approval on the \$450K for the design of the North Acton PFAS system.

Search for District Treasurer/Collector-

Mary Jo Bates provided update regarding the search for a new Treasurer/Collector. The committee is getting finalists ready to present to the Board. Does the Board prefer a Zoom or in-person interviews? Steve Stuntz would prefer in-person interview and we can set-up in the District's garage, if necessary. Erika Amir-Lin thinks that there is a benefit to having it separate from an open meeting so that the interview wouldn't be so long. Mary Jo is thinking the week of August 8<sup>th</sup> and then back on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Counselor Bassett will be away the week of August 15<sup>th</sup>. The interviews will take place in the afternoon.

Update on Massachusetts Drought Status-

Chris Allen: the Drought Task Force meets on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Our region has been updated to critical drought. Matt Mostoller: we are enforcing our outdoor water use restrictions. There is pretty good compliance. We are reviewing that on a daily basis.

Barry Rosen: regarding filling pools with AWD water: When can it be done? Matt Mostoller: the program allows 3 days a week based on your address which is the same as outdoor watering of gardens. The only change is 1-day a week for lawn watering.

Boy Scout Merit Badge request via email to the Commissioners - Matt Mostoller will contact the person to follow-up

*Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn the open meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:46 PM to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease of real property as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz*

**Next meeting: August 15, 2022**