

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 953
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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2015

Agenda:

- A. Comments from Citizens
 - *Residents of 143 Summer Street for Abatement Request
- B. Approve Minutes from the July 20th Meetings
- C. OLD BUSINESS:
 - 1. Water Management Act Permit Renewal.
- D. NEW BUSINESS:
 - 1. Resignation of District Clerk.

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, August 10, 2015 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Ronald Parenti.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

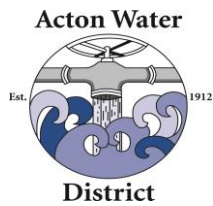
Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chair), Leonard Phillips
District Manager: Chris Allen
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
Finance Committee: Dave Butler
Acton Selectmen: Janet Adachi

A. Comments from Citizens

Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a letter from Ed and Marina Cronin, residents of 143 Summer Street, Acton, requesting an abatement. Mr. Cronin was present this evening. He spoke to the Commissioners and explained the circumstances leading up to his request for an abatement of his water use charges dating back to October of 2014. He stated in the fall of 2014 their water bill indicated a leak, they checked for leaky toilets but found they were not leaking, they continued to watch for leaks. In winter 2015 their water bill was much higher so they contacted the District to run some tests and check their meter, a pit meter, and they confirmed the leak exterior to the home, but downstream of the pit meter. Mr. Cronin met with Ernie Merrill Excavating to discuss options for replacing water pipe. Due to the onset of extreme cold and snow in late January of 2015, the water pipe was not fixed until April 2015. At that time their water bill came in at \$1,215.46. He informed the Commissioners that not only had new water pipes installed but also had the meter relocated from outside and is now located inside the house. Mr. Cronin noted that they promptly paid each of these excessive water bills and that they remediated the problem as quickly as possible.

Mr. Parenti and Mr. Phillips were in agreement that Mr. Cronin took the steps that the District requested and are willing to abate.

Mr. Parenti moved to abate \$2,120.27 which will be applied towards future quarterly bills. This amount correlates to estimated metered use by the Cronin's in the period specified. Fixed charges, Service Charge &



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Bond Debt Fee, were not included in the abatement. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Approve Minutes from the July 20th Meeting

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on July 20, 2015 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Water Management Act Permit Renewal.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the District is working on getting their Water Management Act Permit renewed by August 31st. Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a draft of the Water Needs Forecast for the Acton Water District submitted by Anne Carroll, Director of the Office of Water Resources, from the Department of Conservation and Recreation of Massachusetts. Mr. Allen stated that they are working with this Office to finalize the forecast and that once this is complete they will commence discussions with MassDEP to come to a consensus on the what the District's "Ask" will be for total permitted withdrawal.

Mr. Mostoller stated that the forecast is based on annual statistical reports the District provided to MassDEP for the years 2011 through 2014; population and employment data from various sources; and information concerning water use patterns and service areas. Mr. Mostoller stated that this draft was designed to say that based on usage patterns, this is what population growth and water usage in Acton will look like in 2021, 2026 and 2031. Acton's current average daily water use is 1.68 million gallons/day (mgd). In the 2012-2013 Master Plan from Wright-Pierce, they projected water usage to be 1.79 mgd for 2021. Assuming Acton uses Scenario 2 in the draft the water use continues at current rate, the DCR projected water usage in 2021 it's 1.79 mgd; in 2026 it's 1.83 mgd; and in 2031 it's 1.87 mgd.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resignation of District Clerk.

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is Mr. Chip Orcutt's letter of resignation as District Clerk. Mr. Allen stated that due to a conflict of Mr. Orcutt being the developer of a 40B project in Acton he decided to step down.

Mr. Allen stated based on Chip's dealings with the Town of Acton, and his work on various Town *ad hoc* committees, civic projects and his work as a real estate broker, that in 2012, the Commissioners had appointed Chip as a "Special Municipal Employee" under G.L. ch. 268A, which exempted the position from some of the more stringent requirements of the state conflict of interest laws. However the Water Supply District was not the proper entity to designate Chip with this position. The Town of Acton Selectmen were the ones to appoint him as such. The Board of Selectmen decided to take no action on this issue.

Selectmen Adachi spoke and stated that Chip attended the Selectmen's meeting on Monday night (7/13) with intentions of speaking on the subject however he didn't end up speaking.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that per the by-laws, the Commissioners can appoint a citizen to the District Clerk position for the current unexpired term, through 2017, when the position comes up for re-election. Mr. Allen asked the Commissioners if they know anyone in Town who might be interested. They couldn't think



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of anyone off the top of their heads. They did suggest that they post the position on the District website. It is the goal to try and fill the position before the end of August.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and it was unanimously voted.

Next Meeting:
Monday, September 14, 2015