

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Acton Water District
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA
Monday, August 29, 2022

AGENDA

- A. Comments from the Public
- B. Approve minutes from the meeting of 8/11/22 and 8/15/22
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

D. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
- 2. Discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
 - Update on ARPA request for North Acton
 - Discussion of Round 2 ARPA allocations from Town of Acton

E. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Discussion of Analysis of Fiscal '23 Revenue and Expense Projections

Due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Charles Baker, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was not held at the Acton Water District Office; instead, the meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and was recorded. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 29, 2022, by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen, Stephen Stuntz (Chair)
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Public Present:

A. Comments from the Public

No comments this evening.

B. Approve Minutes from the Meeting of 8/11/22 and 8/15/22

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of August 11, 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.

Ms. Amir-Lin motioned to approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 2022. Mr. Rosen 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 Erika Amir-Lin 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. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Current sample data, if available

Mr. Allen stated that there is no PFAS sample data available tonight. The three water treatment plants currently serving water include: North Acton, South Acton and Central Acton.

2. Discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- Update on ARPA request for North Acton
- Discussion of Round 2 ARPA allocations from Town of Acton

Ms. Amir-Lin stated that the Acton Selectboard discussed at their meeting last Monday night that they are opening up discussion for reserved money. There was a certain amount of money that was reserved last year, and they are ready to open that money. They would like the District to put in an updated request. Mr. Allen has been in discussion with the Town Manager and gave him a few projects that they would like to be funded including any funding related to PFAS, Kelley's Corner, and the Great Road water supply. Ms. Amir-Lin stated that the Selectboard will have the ARPA discussion on their next meeting so it would be good to put in our request now. Ms. Amir-Lin asked if we should go back and say that we haven't received any of our allocation and we would like to re-request all that money back into Kelley's Corner. Mr. Allen would be in favor of an additional ask for Kelley's Corner. Mr. Rosen recommends that we should ask for a million dollars for Kelley's Corner. Mr. Stuntz asked what is the total cost for the Kelley's Corner contract? Mr. Allen stated it came in at \$2.24 million or \$2.4 million with contingency. Mr. Stuntz stated that we should ask for \$1.3 million.

Mr. Rosen suggested that the Board write a letter to the Selectboard with our request. Mr. Allen will write the letter and Board can review and sign.

No updates on the ARPA request for the design of the North Acton PFAS filtration system.

Other Old Business:

Made a formal offer to Christine McCarthy and she will start on September 15th as Assistant District Treasurer/Collector. Mary Jo Bates will train her through October 15th and will then be available thereafter as needed for questions until she has fully retired (date to be determined).

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Analysis of Fiscal '23 Revenue and Expense Projections

Mr. Rosen had some concerns about the expenses that are increasing for FY'23. He went through slides which showed his concerns. He discussed the following:

- Gas and diesel fuel has risen exponentially
- Electricity is on the rise
- Electricity rates in MA are about 63% higher than the rest of the country
- FY 22 delta between our revenue and expenses was about \$930K and if you look at our FY 23 delta between our forecasted revenue and forecasted expense it's about \$621K. This is not factored in for the additional DOT expense for revenue that will be required for Kelley's Corner project. The day-to-day

operations of our existing facilities and vehicles will cost us more. On September 1st new electrical rates will kick in. We need to be concerned about the operation costs of new facilities including pilots we run, the mitigation we implement, and any wells that come online because we run everything on electricity.

Based on our projections our revenue may be ok with the cost increase that we added to our rates and the current demand. There is a need for us to carefully examine our expense. Possibly prioritize how we spend our money. We may have to make some choices in the future. We have a need for our Treasurer to keep an eye on things especially when the fuel and electrical bills come in with rates changing in September and alert us of any drastic changes and increases.

Mr. Allen stated that most of our electrical load is being supplied from the output of the Lawsbrook solar array per the Alternative on-bill credit agreement. He also enrolled the South Acton Water Treatment Plant in the Acton Power Choice Basic Program that will begin in September.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn the open meeting at 7:40 PM. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Rosen, and Mr. Stuntz

Next meeting: September 12, 2022