

**Acton Water District
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2022
693 Massachusetts Avenue
Acton, MA 01720**

In attendance were Finance Committee members Chuck Bradley, Bill Guthlein and Ron Parenti. Also in attendance, Chris Allen, District Manager, Christine McCarthy, District Treasurer, Matthew Mostoller, Assistant District Manager, Mary J. Bates and Kim Kastens.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mr. Parenti.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Guthlein made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2022 meeting as presented. Mr. Parenti seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Mr. Guthlein, yes, Mr. Parenti, yes, Mr. Bradley, yes.

Christine McCarthy

Christine McCarthy was introduced as the new District Treasurer. She has taken over as of October 3, 2022.

FY23 Income and Expenditures

Ms. McCarthy presented the updated FY23 actual expenditures through September 30. Both the Chemical account and Lights, Power and Fuel account will have shortfalls this year. For the Chemical account, Mr. Allen indicated that the rising cost of fuel, as well as the supply chain disruptions have driven an increase in costs. For the Lights Power and Fuel account, there has been a significant increase in the cost of electricity. Mr. Allen indicated that the Alternative on Bill Credit Agreement (AOBCA), has not been reflected on the electric bills yet. It is expected that the District will see an decrease of \$.01 per Kwh for all usage. The South Acton Treatment has been enrolled in the Acton Power Choice Program, at a cost of \$.017 per Kwh. The Knox Trail Solar array, which will power that plant, is not expected to be on line until early 2023. Other line items appear to be within budget for the fiscal year.

Income is over budget to date. The October billing was higher than the same period last year, with water restrictions still in place. Solar revenue will exceed budget, as the first pro-rated payment was received in July, and a full payment will be received in January, per the contract.

2022 Rebate Programs

Ms. McCarthy presented an update on the rebate programs. For calendar year 2022, the District has given \$22,532.23 in rebates in the following programs:

Bottled water	\$13,125.00
Toilets	\$ 5,300.00
Washers	\$ 2,550.00
Fixtures	\$ 580.23
Seniors	\$ 977.00

Water Sources, MWRA and PFAS

Mr. Allen informed the Committee that the District has been meeting with a coalition of Metro West water suppliers, including Concord, Maynard and Littleton, and MWRA to explore the possibility of a connection. The MWRA Board has waived the entrance fee, which is a significant cost savings. MWRA will engage their engineer to explore the possibility based on current usage of the entire group. Currently, all interested suppliers have provided that information to MWRA. MWRA is currently showing only trace levels of PFAS at this time.

The District has made no commitment to join, but this potential regional solution to current water supply would most likely be 7 to 10 years away. In the meantime, the District will need to address the current PFAS problem. Mr. Mostoller said that EPA will be finalizing their PFAS rule within the next 2 years. It is currently unknown what the federal standard will be as there is pressure to regulate PFAs as a group of contaminants. Mr. Allen informed the Committee that the District has not seen any of the ARPA funds that the Town of Acton committed to. The District has currently spent approximately \$30K on the engineering of temporary treatment for PFAS in North Acton. Once the ARPA funds are released, this amount will be reimbursed. All agreed that there are advantages and disadvantages to both the potential MWRA connection and the PFAS treatment systems. The District will need to consider all options. Could an engineer help the District to make the decision? Will this be part of the Master Plan? At this time, there is not enough information available to weigh the options. As MWRA provides more information on feasibility and cost, the District will need to engage a consultant to help with this. Wayland has done this and Mr. Mostoller will share that report with the Committee.

FY23 Budget

There will be a meeting in November to review preliminary FY23 budget numbers. This meeting will include a discussion of the Debt Fee.

Mr. Parenti made a motion to adjourn the meeting 11:20 am. It was seconded by Mr. Bradley and unanimously approved by a roll call vote:

Mr. Guthlein, yes; Mr. Parenti, yes, Mr. Bradley, yes

All documents referred to in the minutes are available for inspection at the Acton Water District Office, 693 Massachusetts Avenue Acton, MA 978 263.9107