



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JANUARY 17, 2023

4:30 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard W. Loring, Jr called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

In attendance were Commissioner Robert Kostka, Superintendent Chris Veracka, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE, Boy Scout Alex McNeil and Clerk, Stacey Smith.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9 AND NOVEMBER 22, 2022

Commissioner Kostka moved to approve the minutes of November 9, 2022 & November 22, 2022. The motion was seconded by Chariman Loring and unanimously voted (2-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

DANA MILLER RE: SOUTHEASTERN GRAVEL/ ELM ST WATER TANK LAND AGREEMENT

Rescheduled until February 28, 2023

ALEXANDER MCNEIL, TROOP 49 BOY SCOUT RE: LIFE PROJECT - HYDRANT PAINTING IN MACFARLANE FARMS NEIGHBORHOOD

Mr. Alex MacNeil introduced himself to the Board. He is a scout with Troop 49 in Kingston and he is pursuing his life project. He would like to paint fire hydrants. He recently worked on a similar project two months ago for another scout. Commissioner Kostka asked Superintendent Veracka for his recommendation. Superintendent Veracka stated it was ok with him. He recommended MacFarlane Drive subdivision as it is safe, off the main road and has minimal traffic. Chairman Loring asked how soon this project would start anticipating the winter weather. Superintendent Veracka stated it could take place as soon as the weather breaks. He suggested 3-4 days of 50 degree weather would be sufficient. Commissioner Kostka moved to allow Boy Scout Alex MacNeil to paint hydrants in MacFarlane Farm Estates. The motion was seconded by Chairman Loring and approved unanimously (2-0-0).

4:33pm Vice Chairman Erlandsen arrived at the meeting. Resident Mark Guidoboni, Rick Grady of Grady Consulting and Scott Brown of Brownbuilt Construction entered the meeting.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES AND OPM UPDATES FOR GRASSY HOLE/I-86 TREATMENT PLANT

Ms. Berger stated she wanted to review the information trend of water usage prior to any updates on the treatment plant. She stated this information had all been part of the water system study that had been completed back in 2016. Ms. Berger explained projections had been based on information gathered between 2009-2015 with commercial usage projected to increase with the employment rate and residential usage to increase with population increases. She passed out graphs and an explanation sheet for the Board to review. Ms. Berger stated the demands between 2016-2022 exceeded projections when compared to the projections made in the water system study. She referenced the drought in 2016 and COVID-19. Ms. Berger stated during COVID residential usage increased by 14% from 2015-2021. That same 14% figure was predicted to cover the increase over 20 years, not over 5 or 6 years. Additionally, she stated there were

a large number of construction and water projects during that same time period as well where hydrant usage/flushing and leak repairs took place, which can account for some of the increase. Ms. Berger stated the Water Management Act Permit was renewed in 2016. As part of that renewal, a "water needs forecast" was put together by DCR. This was based on population projections and average water demand over a 5 year period between 2009-2014.

Ms. Berger reviewed population data, Figure 1. She pointed to the graph and explained the different colored lines in the graph and what they represent. The black dotted line showed census data between 2000-2020. The red dot represents the Town Master Plan as of 2030. The red triangle line represents the projected data with DCR. This projection is low and what the withdrawal permit was based on. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if there were consequences for pulling more water than permitted. Ms. Berger stated, yes there can be consequences. She stated she's never heard of them fining anyone but it's something they will want us to be very aware of when allocating water to new customers.

Commissioner Kostka said that in anticipation of Town Meeting, this information should be prepared for presentation to the voters. Commissioner Kostka asked Ms. Berger to make it very easy to understand for an audience that may not be aware of the state requirements. Ms. Berger said she would do that.

She presented Figure 2, Average Day Water Demand in Comparison with Water Management Act Permit. She referred to the graph showing that water demands between 2020-2022 exceeded the permit projections. Ms. Berger added as this becomes more of a pattern, MassDEP may require you to increase your permit. Discussion continued regarding possible issues and resolutions with MassDEP and the permit. Commissioner Kostka asked, will an additional source of water be needed? Ms. Berger stated not necessarily. She stated the Board already does a great job with water restrictions in the summer and prohibiting underground irrigation systems on town water. These are efforts that other water systems are not currently doing. MassDEP will look at the whole picture when issuing a Water Management Act Permit. They will issue more of an updated permit based on the current system. Commissioner Kostka asked about the per capita numbers and asked if Ms. Berger had those available. She stated she didn't have them but she could get them. She stated these numbers may settle out in the next couple years.

Ms. Berger presented Figure 3, Maximum Day Demand Analysis. She stated this chart represents the current practice of not pumping Grassy Hole and I-86 simultaneously. She stated the max day has only become a little worse since 2020-2022. It is higher than expected max day numbers. She said this is a good time to look at another demand projection. The presentation continued. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked regarding the maximum day actual, over the course of the year, how often do we reach that? Ms. Berger stated, occasionally during the high usage periods, for instance, late spring and summer months.

Commissioner Kostka thanked Ms. Berger for putting this information together in a timely fashion so we are prepared and have time to digest this information.

Ms. Berger discussed the ongoing pump tests and well maintenance. She has been putting together some information for Superintendent Veracka regarding the possible repair of the well pump at I-86.

ZONE 2 DELINEATION ON GIS MAP

Ms. Berger stated she noticed a discrepancy on the Mass GIS map regarding our Zone 2. She asked if there was an old test well site at some point. Ms. Berger passed out the maps and referenced the area in question. Commissioner Kostka asked Chairman Loring if there was a well site. Chairman Loring stated there was one off of Second Brook and recommended Superintendent Veracka reach out to Matt Darsch to inquire about the specifics. Ms. Berger stated that may explain the discrepancy.

Regarding Main St. Project, Ms. Berger stated we need to acquire files from CEI, to get them in a timely manner as well as some other files, so that we can make a path forward on this project. She added, what the State (MassDOT) is asking the Town to do could impact traffic on Rt 3A. If improvements are needed to their roads, if the Town pays for the design of water main and materials, Mass DOT will have their contractors do the installation as part of their road resurfacing project. She stated it's one of the best deals out there, so keep that in mind.

Ms. Berger updated the Board on the SRF program for the Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment Plant. She stated the SRF submitted the end of November is still outstanding but that was to be expected with the holidays. The remaining contingency left on the project is approximately \$186K. Ms. Berger reviewed the punchlist items for Winston Builders. The remaining items are the emergency light and the repair to the retention pond for the drainage that washed out, which will be addressed in the spring. The payment requisition for Winston Builders before the Board for approval this evening is for \$69,035.37. This was approved and recommended for payment by Mike Ohl of CEI.

Commissioner Kostka moved to approve the payment of \$69,035.37 to Winston Builders. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

Ms. Berger stated the only other issue is the O & M Manual from CEI is still lagging. A deadline for that will need to be determined, She added, CEI has not submitted any payment requests at this time.

Ms. Berger's recommendation is that no further payment be made to CEI until we have received the O&M Manuals.

UPDATE, IF ANY, REGARDING LETTER DATED 12/5/22 RE: PAINTING SUBBID CLAIM FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT FOR VALVE PAINTING AT TRACKLE POND TREATMENT PLANT

Ms. Berger stated regarding the painting sub-bid issue, there has been no further comment or request from the painter for additional payment. Superintendent Veracka confirmed all the painting has been completed.

POWER/GENERATOR FAILURE ON FRIDAY 12/2/22

Ms. Berger asked Superintendent Veracka about the status of the generator. Superintendent Veracka stated it has been running as intended since the reset was done in early December after the failure.

Ms. Berger asked him to keep an eye on it as it remains under warranty by the contractor until early August 2023.

DEICING MATERIALS USED AT KINGSTON COLLECTION AND APARTMENTS PER WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE

No discussion or action taken.

MIKE OHL, CEI, INC RE: UPDATES ON GRASSY HOLE/I-86 TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Ohl was unable to attend the meeting.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

UPDATE, IF AVAILABLE, ON KELLEHER ESTATE AND ANY CORRESPONDENCE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

Superintendent Veracka stated he's reached out to the Kelleher Estate several times with both emails and voicemails and has had no response to date. Chairman Loring asked if we had a mailing address and recommended the next step be a certified letter, reiterating our attempts to reach them and send a copy of the letter to Town Counsel. This is important as we need to show due diligence to the residents in trying to maintain contact with the estate.

DEHUMIDIFIER QUOTES FOR TRACKLE POND TREATMENT PLANT

Superintendent Veracka stated he received two quotes to repair the dehumidier at Trackle Pond, It's an estimated repair of about 20K. The two quotes he received were for repair only. He will pursue a third quote as well. Chairman Loring asked how much it would be to replace the unit. Superintendent Veracka stated he was unsure but he could price that out. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked what is the life span of a dehumidifier. Superintendent Veracka stated this particular one is ten years old. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if that was typical. Ms. Berger and Superintendent Veracka both stated they thought it would be longer.

Superintendent Veracka reviewed some recent repairs made at Grassy Hole/I-86.

He added, a meeting with Thorndike Development, the Town Administrator and other dept heads is scheduled next week to discuss the Sacred Heart project.

Capital Planning will be meeting with the water department on February 22, 2023.

Superintendent Veracka stated Morrell Labs will no longer be doing bacterial testing as of January 24, 2023. He stated he is currently looking at different labs to perform these tests.

NEW BUSINESS:

CELL TOWER NEWS

PEMBROKE ST TANK - SPRINT/T-MOBILE NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF LEASE EFFECTIVE 2/28/23

ELM ST TANK - VEOLIA, PAINTING SCHEDULE

Commissioner Kostka asked if Sprint/T-Mobile gave any reason for the termination. Ms. Smith responded, no and added that is all handled with the Board of Selectmen.

Commissioner Kostka said regarding the Elm St Tank, the painting is becoming higher on his priority list. He asked which cell carrier seemed to be slowing down the process. Ms. Smith responded all of them. Superintendent Veracka said, we did reach out to Town Counsel for some assistance with the cell carriers. Ms. Smith asked if Superintendent Veracka received anything from Town Counsel. Superintendent Veracka responded, no not yet.

REVIEW AND APPROVE THE WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR THE 2022 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

Ms. Smith presented the annual water department report for the Annual Town Report. She asked the Commissioners for a vote of approval. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to approve the water department report for the Annual Town Report. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR WILLIAM WATSON, 57 MAIN ST ON DECEMBER BILL

Ms. Smith provided the board with the back up of the abatement request for 57 Main St. The homeowner is asking for relief due to a toilet leak that was undiagnosed until after the bill run. He is requesting usage be reduced to his normal usage for the same time period. Chairman Loring asked if this was multi-unit building. Superintendent Veracka confirmed it was a multi-unit building. Chairman Loring said he has a problem with the proposal to reduce to previous usage because there's no way we can tell if that's accurate as this is not a single family property. Commissioner Kostka stated we have established a procedure for charging at the lowest rate. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to charge the total number of gallons (147K) at the lowest tiered rate of \$2.50 per thousand. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

ABATEMENT REQUEST FROM TARA KISLAUSKIS, 30 COLE ST ON SEPTEMBER BILL

Ms. Smith presented the Board with the back up materials for the abatement request for 30 Cole St. The homeowner believes an outside spigot was faulty and leaking causing excessive usage on their September bill. Her husband has made the repair and their December usage has gone back to normal levels. Commissioner Kostka moved to charge the total gallons used at the lowest tier rate of \$2.50 per thousand gallons for the total gallons consumed. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and the it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

ABATEMENT REQUEST FROM ROCKY NOOK-BREWSTER PARK COMM. ASSOCIATION, 21 WEST AVE ON DECEMBER BILL

Ms. Smith presented the backup for the abatement request for 21 West Ave. This property is the community building, "The Coop", for the Rocky Nook Community Association. They had a total of 122k gallons of usage. Their typical usage is 10K gallons. When the property was closed for the season, the plumber could not find any sign of leak. The only explanation is the outside spigot may have been left running undetected. They are asking for relief for their December bill. Commissioner Kostka said he feels without knowing the real reason for the usage, he's hesitant to offer any abatement. His recommendation is the bill be paid and when the water is turned back on in the spring it can be re-evaluated to determine the source of the leak. Vice Chairman Erlandsen agreed and stated he noticed the abatement request referenced a key and lock being put on the outside spigot. No motion was made on the abatement request.

APPROVAL OF WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT FOR ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

EMAIL DATED 12/05/22 FROM CONSERVATION AGENT MATTHEW PINELLA RE: WATER CONCERNS IN PLYMOUTH AND AQUIFER PROTECTION

Presentation materials only - no action needed

EMAIL DATED 12/5/22 FROM TOWN PLANNER, VALERIE MASSARD REGARDING INQUIRY REGARDING STATE GRANT

MONIES RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS IN THE PAST

Presentation materials only - no action needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

SEE WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

STS PROPERTIES CONSTRUCTION RE: 163 SUMMER ST/1TREMONT ST (MAP 20, LOT 73 & MAP 27, LOT 27 RE: REVISED PLANS

Chairman Loring recognized Rick Grady of Grady Consulting. Mr. Grady presented a plan to the board regarding the 1 Tremont St/163 Summer St project for BrownBuilt Construction. He stated he had been before the Board earlier this year in June and understood a water quality certificate was pending. Mr. Grady said he hasn't seen anything on the water quality certificate and he is here tonight to follow up on that certificate. Ms. Smith reminded Mr. Grady that those original plans presented were changed and therefore the entire process had to start all over again. Chairman Loring stated the Board was never presented with updated plans detailing the water main as proposed. Mr. Grady took his pen out to show the proposed water mains and fire services. Superintendent Veracka referenced that there remain concerns regarding gas lines, fire protection service lines etc..that had never been formally shown on the plans. Chairman Loring stated we need plans that clearly show these details. Discussion continued regarding the plans on the table and further editing. Chairman Loring stated he does not like permanent engineering plans made with a pen on a map. Mr. Grady stated Scott Brown has been trying to schedule a meeting with Superintendent Veracks outside of a Commissioner's meeting but was told that he would need to meet in front of the Board, so that's why we are here tonight. Ms. Smith stated, we have been asking for these detailed plans for months. She stated we have several emails going back and forth asking for updated plans. Discussion continued regarding specifics requested by Superintendent Veracka.

Commissioner Kostka had to leave the meeting at 5:21pm.

Mr. Grady asked if that was all the water department needed for the water quality certificate. Chairman Loring stated that he won't commit to anything without detailed plans. Mr. Grady said it was a fair question to ask if we needed anything else.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

JANUARY 31, 2023 AT 4:30PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to adjourn at 5:23pm. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: JAN 17, 2023 04:30 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/83696980376?PWD=V0lJC2dRQU10OU5MMXHMC0TZDUJPDZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83696980376?pwd=V0lJC2dRQU10OU5MMXHMC0TZDUJPDZ09)

MEETING ID: 836 9698 0376

PASSCODE: 471662

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PASSCODE: 471662

FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/U/K1QXBAFMY](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83696980376)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk