TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JANUARY 31, 2023

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard W. Loring, Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:13pm. He apologized for the delayed start of the meeting and cited a temporary lack of quorum.

In attendance were Vice Chairman Robert Erlandsen, Superintendent Chris Veracka, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE, Michael Ohll of CEI Inc, resident Mark Guidoboni and Clerk Stacey Smith.
Commissioner Robert Kostka was unable to attend the meeting.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

Department bills were presented and signed by Chairman Loring and Vice Chairman Erlandsen.

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2023

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to approve the minutes of January 17, 2023. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

CAPACITY ANALYSIS

Ms. Berger referenced the meeting of January 17th and the capacity analysis discussion that took place. She stated she is in the process of summarizing the findings and is working on a public presentation for the Annual Town Meeting.

I-86 WELL CLEANING

Regarding the I-86 well cleaning, she has reached out to Hayes Pump to obtain more information. They are the representatives of the current pump out there. Superintendent Veracka provided Ms. Berger with model and serial numbers to obtain the pump curve. She would like to be prepared for when they pull the pump and if it looks like it's in good shape, find out if it's possible to add a stage and how much extra capacity we could pump. Now that the pump has to pump through the filter plant, it's seeing additional head loss so it will never get back to the design flow it was designed for. Ms. Berger stated she also wants to be aware so as not to create a motor horsepower issue. She wants to make sure we are prepared for this pump work project. Once the information is obtained, she will submit the specifications to be reviewed by Town Counsel. Chairman Loring stated it's not so much the technical part that needs to be reviewed by Town Counsel, but the contractual part that requires their review.

Ms. Berger stated regarding the water resource map, she was able to locate the map of the zones of contribution. She referenced the map included in the meeting packet. She stated the map shows a piece which is an area around Second Brook. This was the area of a former test well. It was not included on the map in the office. However, it is on the town and state GIS maps. She stated we need to update the large wall map in the office and use the GIS with the approved overlay district.

GRASSY HOLE-I/86 TREATMENT PLANT UPDATES; SRF UPDATE

Ms Berger said there remain two SRF submittals outstanding from the state. The first was submitted in November, which requires follow up and a second one was submitted last week.
She stated Mr. Ohl, of CEI Inc., has sent the O&M Manual over for review and edit. Ms. Berger said she would review that and suggested Superintendent Veracka review it as well and submit any questions he may have to her.

MIKE OHL, COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL INC RE:PUNCHLIST UPDATE GRASSY HOLE I-86 TREATMENT PLANT

Mr. Ohl stated that some of the outstanding items left on the punchlist consist of the heater with replacement and installation expected in February. There also remains the battery for the emergency lighting, which is also expected in February. He added, as Ms. Berger stated, a draft O&M Manual has been forwarded and he is requesting review by both Superintendent Veracka and Ms. Berger prior to the final copy. He asked the Board to let him know how many hard copies will be needed.

Mr. Ohl stated the only other item Chris had mentioned is with the current set up, you lose water supply at I-86 if the well isn't running. There was discussion of an interconnection that would maintain pressure in the line between I-86 and the well under all conditions. Mr. Ohl stated he took a look at the plans and there is one easy spot to do a cross connection with protection between the finished water pipe and the chemically pre-treated pipe. He added that a backflow preventer and a meter would be needed. It probably only needs to be a one- or - two inch line as it would be used only for maintenance. Superintendent Veracka said Trackle Pond has something similar and it's a two-inch line there. Mr. Ohl stated there is space for a tap on the wall downstream of the chemical pre-treated line that could be utilized. Discussion continued regarding the interconnection location. Superintendent Veracka stated it needs to be done to prevent pipes from running dry. It's best to keep water in there at all times.

Chairman Loring instructed Ms. Berger to work with Superintendent Veracka on the best way to handle this situation.

Mr. Ohl stated he is in the process of listing out CEI project files to Superintendent Veracka for moving forward with Resilient CE. Chairman Loring thanked Mr. Ohl for his cooperation in this process.
Mr. Ohl added, he doesn't want anything to be lost. He referenced, for instance, the Main St Water Main Project. There was significant work already done that won't need to be done again. Mr. Ohl added, if a project comes up that CEI may have been involved in, he will be happy to attend any meeting virtually to discuss such projects, free of charge. He doesn't want anything misrepresented of what he said or didn't say. Chairman Loring again thanked Mr. Ohl for all his work.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENT UPDATES SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Superintendent Veracka spoke of the dehumidifier at Trackle Pond. He has requested price quotes for both repair and replacement. The failure of the machine seems very premature. The cost of the repair is estimated at 20K and has a 10-12 week lead time. The replacement is estimated at 130K and has a year lead time. Chairman Loring asked if the water department had available funds or would this be coming from surplus revenue or a funding article at town meeting. Ms. Smith stated she would look at current budget articles to confirm. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to approve 20K funding, provided the funding is found within the budget, with a 10-12 lead time to repair the dehumidifier. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0). Superintendent Veracka said NorthStar Electric would be doing the work. Chairman Loring asked if we needed to go out for proposals. Ms. Smith responded, where the amount was under 50K, she believed only three quotes needed to be obtained.

Superintendent Veracka stated the quarterly billing reads are in the process of being done.

He updated the Board regarding the Thorndike Development at Sacred Heart High School. He stated there was a meeting that water had been invited to; however, the meeting was canceled. A subsequent meeting was scheduled. However, water was not invited to the meeting until the day of the meeting. Superintendent Veracka was unaware as he was working in one of the treatment plants when a reminder email was sent. He has since received the conceptual plans that were presented in that meeting and he has included those plans in the meeting packet. Discussion concerning the size of the proposed site, placement of what is there now and what is shown on the plan. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if this property falls within the MBTA Zoning. Superintendent Veracka said no, it is outside the boundaries of the MBTA Zoning.

Chairman Loring stated the town's MBTA Task Force has not met yet. He is concerned about the massive Thorndike plan as there is no water there to supply the project, no water storage facility and it does not support the existing residents in town. He says it makes sense to only add a project this size when it does not have a detrimental impact on the land use and infrastructure we currently have. He further stated, this proposal seems totally unrealistic. He told Superintendent Veracka that both the Town Administrator and the Town Planner clearly understand that this project is being proposed without any input from the Kingston Water Department and our ability to supply any type of potable water. Vice Chairman Erlandsen said he agreed. He added, they spoke at length the last time Thorndike met with water about the need for a new well site and he went further to say that the Town Administrator needs to understand any further conversations need to include the water department. Chairman Loring said he would hate to see this go to town meeting before the voters, with this Board so adamantly opposed to it, without proper planning and this appears to be improper planning.

Superintendent Veracka started to prepare the Annual Statistical Report to MassDEP.

He stated he has been in contact with the Envirotech Laboratory located in Sandwich and he has set up an account with them for our monthly bacteria testing.

He told the Board the town is eligible for certain benefits and significant discounts through the Operational Services Division and explained they are responsible for creating the state contract lists.
Regarding propane providers, Wrightington Gas is our current propane fuel and service provider. They are not on the state bid list. We currently own all of our propane tanks.
Osterman Propane is the only propane provider on the state bid list, for our area, and they charge $1.47 per gal. Additionally, if there is a service issue, they only charge for parts and labor is free.
In contrast, Wrightington's charges upwards of $3.54 per gal. They charge $275/hr for labor plus parts. Superintendent Veracka understands Wrightington Gas has been our provider for years. However, being in budget season, questions have risen regarding why the increase is so high and what's the need for propane for the water department. Chairman Loring recommended that Superintendent Veracka meet with Wrightington's, lay out all the facts and service arrangements and ask if they can come close. He stated he would hate to stop working with a local business, but if they can't come close, then we need to make that change. Superintendent Veracka will reach out to Wrightington's and proceed with a conversation. Discussion continued regarding costs and the water department's need for propane in the winter.

Superintendent Veracka stated he met with Veolia and cell phone providers regarding the cell phone towers on the Elm Street Water Tank. All parties met up at the site to discuss the placement of a tower for the cell phone equipment to be temporarily located while the water tank is painted. He stated there would be a few trees near the fenced-in area that would be removed at the cell carrier's expense. This will provide increased air circulation and sun. Industrial Communications will come in and place a modular temporary concrete base and install a 110 ft tower for the equipment to be installed upon. Chairman Loring asked if there was any discussion of the corral system on top of the water tank. Superintendent Veracka stated there was no interest with the cell carriers in pursuing that option. Chairman Loring asked what the timeframe is for this work. Superintendent Veracka stated Veolia had originally proposed it be scheduled for the spring. However, spring is a high water demand season. He feels it would be best done in the fall when demand is lower. Chairman Loring, asked if the cell carriers could move forward at any time to move their equipment. Superintendent Verack stated, yes they can do so at anytime, even if we don't do the maintenance until the fall. He added, the cell carriers are doing their bid work now with permitting, etc...

Ms. Smith updated the Board and presented the letters of abatement that were sent out after our last meeting. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if Rocky Nook Community Association had reached out in response to the Board's decision. Ms. Smith stated, she has not heard from any of the parties that were mailed the decision letters.

Superintendent Veracka stated a certified letter had been sent to the Kelleher estate. Chairman Loring asked if we received proof of receipt. Ms Smith stated, we have not yet received the returned receipt.
Ms. Smith told the Board she did send Town Counsel a copy of the letter as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

NO NEW BUSINESS REQUESTED AS OF AGENDA POSTING DEADLINE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

LETTER DATED 1/18/23 TO WILLIAM WATSON, 6 PICO AVE RE: 57 MAIN ST ABATEMENT REQUEST

LETTER DATED 1/18/23 TO TARA KISLAUSKIS AT 30 COLE ST RE: ABATEMENT REQUEST

LETTER DATED 1/18/23 TO ROCKY NOOK- BREWSTER PARK COMM ASSOC, 21 WEST AVE RE: ABATEMENT REQUEST

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2023 AT 4:00PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:
Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).
The meeting adjourned at 4:48pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TIME: JAN 31, 2023 04:00 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)
JOIN ZOOM MEETING
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Respectfully submitted,

Stacey L. Smith

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk