



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
APRIL 12, 2023

7:15 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Richard W. Loring Jr called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

In attendance were Vice Chairperson Erlandsen, Superintendent Christopher Veracka, Clerk Stacey Smith and resident Mark Guidoboni.

Attending via ZOOM was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and a viewer identified as "Adam".

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

NONE

APPOINTMENTS:

TO DISCUSS A TOWN-WIDE WATER MORATORIUM AND TAKE ANY ACTION RELATIVE THERETO.

Chairperson Loring stated this meeting was for the sole purpose of discussing the potential implementation of a town wide water ban on new hook-ups and new services. He stated we are currently in a position that by adding new mains and services we could potentially place the entire water system at risk. Chairperson Loring added, through our engineer, Resilient CE, we have received documentation that we are regularly pumping more water than we should be under the water management act. The Board has had discussions regarding new development, most recently with Trammel Crow and Thorndike Development. In order to be fair to everyone and most importantly, to protect the rate payers of the water system, it is apparent that the one thing we should do is to place a moratorium on any new hook-ups. An across the board approach will prevent the Board from "picking and choosing" who gets connected and who doesn't. A moratorium would place a stop on new development in town. Chairperson Loring continued that he and Superintendent Veracka have both spoken with Valerie Massard the Town Planner and Keith Hickey the Town Administrator, about this issue and all are in agreement for the reasons why the Board may have to enact such a policy. Chairperson Loring continued that he doesn't believe restrictions on water services should be the controlling factor in reasonable growth. However, it's important that reasonable growth protects the residents and rate payers in town.

At approximately 7:20pm, Commissioner Kostka entered the meeting.

Vice Chairperson Erlandsen asked if the Board would revisit this when conditions change, regarding capacity or do we have a time frame. Chairperson Loring stated, since we have never placed a moratorium in town before, he was unsure, and added, we will have whatever is decided tonight reviewed by Town Counsel. He went on to say he felt it would be in place until such time that a new well and water storage tank could be obtained and placed online. Chairperson Loring stated that we must take a look at how we manage our system before making any decision to remove a moratorium.

Vice Chairperson Erlandsen, asked if that meant we should wait until a new well is online? Commissioner Kostka stated he felt it was always going to be a matter of "if" we have water availability, pending everything with a new well.

The topic was deferred to Kristen Berger of Resilient CE for clarification. Ms. Berger confirmed that a well would have to be online before a new water management permit could be issued. She then went on discussing the process and the

conditions under which Mass DEP would determine the figures in a new permit. Chairperson Loring stated he would not want to lift a moratorium with a pending date.

Commissioner Kostka stated there are two things that are currently colliding, that are both fundamental and important to the Town of Kingston, and they are available housing and a shortage of water. He feels that many families and grown children of families raised here cannot afford to live here. On the other side, we have a shortage of water so we have both of these factors colliding with each other. Commissioner Kostka added, he feels as if these two factors will be competing almost in a race and sometimes they will each inch ahead of one another, but the goal at the end of this should be that we develop a new well and then we can open up new housing. But right now we can't as we do not have the capacity. Vice Chairperson Erlandsen stated this pretty much shuts down development. He wants to be sure that once capacity has increased, we need not hobble future development.

Chairperson Loring stated regarding the state mandate for the MBTA re-zoning, there are so many unknowns about that on a broader perspective. He stated the town planner had stated that other towns are discussing taking similar action. He added, he hates the idea that the availability of water would prevent growth; however, growth has to be balanced between residential and commercial.

Commissioner Kostka agreed and said we do not want to be in a position to prevent growth. He feels it's important that people understand before we restrict future growth, we need to stipulate stricter water conservation through this upcoming summer, as he suspects things will get worse before they get better. He complimented Ms. Berger on her analysis and well written letter. Chairperson Loring stated it's important as well to understand that this Board should not make decisions that impact the ratepayers and residents for the benefit of private development. He stated this is a very fine line that this Board is going to have to walk in the future. Commissioner Kostka stated, regarding the existing water supply, absent any requests for new water connections, we already have a water shortage. There are going to be restrictions in the future that have nothing to do with development but have everything to do with existing water supply and demand. He urged the residents to conserve water.

Vice Chairperson Erlandsen made the motion to place a temporary water moratorium on any new water connections and water main extensions, effective April 13, 2023, until such time that Town Counsel can review and suggest formal language. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kostka and voted unanimously (3-0-0).

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

APRIL 25, 2023 AT 7:00PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

Vice Chairperson Erlandsen made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: APR 12, 2023 07:15 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89901288274?PWD=T05VUDIXL1DAAWTRB204ZLU5YXBLZZ09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89901288274?pwd=T05VUDIXL1DAAWTRB204ZLU5YXBLZZ09)

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith

Clerk