TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J. MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
MAY 23, 2023

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Richard W. Loring Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

In attendance were the following: Vice Chairman Robert Erlandsen, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE, Clerk Stacey Smith and resident Mark Guidoboni.

Commissioner Robert Kostka was unable to attend.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

NONE - MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2023 TO BE TRANSCRIBED

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

BID UPDATE - WELL CLEANING
Ms. Berger stated two bids had been received for the I-86 Well Cleaning. The review of the bids and all the math has been worked out. Maher Services was the low bid and they submitted a clean bid. They have provided work for the Town of Kingston in the past.

Superintendent Veracka entered the meeting at 4:02pm.

Ms Berger continued, the base bid for well cleaning was $25,395 plus the added alternate which includes changing the pump, the impellers and increased motor size totaled $38,406. She stated this is within the appropriation that was allowed and the Board should be able to award both should it choose to do so. Ms. Berger presented the Notice of Award and stated the amount can be filled in. Once signed, it can be presented to procurement for signature and returned back to Maher Services to start the contract process.

Vice Chairman Erlansdsen asked Superintendent Veracka if he was good with the cleaning and the upgrade. Superintendent Veracka responded, yes. Chairman Loring asked Superintendent if he was recommending both the base bid and alternate. Superintendent Veracka stated yes, depending on what they find when they go in to clean the well. Chairman Loring stated so $38,406 is the total bid price. Superintendent Veracka stated, that's correct.
Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if it is possible they may not need to do all of what they're proposing. Ms Berger said they will have to do that if you want the increase in the pumping rate and there may be some "tweaking" that has to be done but based on the budget there is some room for contingencies should they arise.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to award the base bid and added alternate bid for well cleaning, in the amount of $38,406, to Maher Services. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if the work came back higher than proposed, then what would we do then. Ms. Smith said a change order would need to be done and Ms. Berger agreed. Chairman

Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE - 163 SUMMER/1 TREMONT ST

Ms. Smith stated the only reason this item was on the agenda was because she and Ms. Berger took some time to research previous water quality certificates. It has been some time since a water quality certificate was done. They found a few examples and will be working on one for Scott Brown this week. No action on the item is needed at this time.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT - REVIEW AND VOTE

Ms. Berger presented the draft of the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report. She stated Ms. Smith had found some clerical edits and called attention to the new treatment facility. Superintendent Veracka pointed out a formatting glitch and Ms. Berger noted where the fix was needed.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if the PFAS findings were included in this report. Ms. Berger stated yes, they are referenced as "non detects". She added, Kingston has been very fortunate here with PFAS.
Ms. Smith advised the Board this needs to be approved at the next meeting so they can be sent to the printer to be mailed by July 1st, per Mass DEP requirement.

Ms. Berger stated she received the map mark ups from CEI, Inc. for the water distribution map. Ms. Berger asked Superintendent Veracka to review the mark ups.

She stated that regarding the Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment Facility, we are still waiting on the heater. She asked Superintendent Veracka about the SCADA system. He said the harness was expected the end of May but he will follow up with Mike Leary for more updated information.

Ms. Berger stated she reviewed the Main St Water Main Project files. She said the survey was completed. She added, some preliminary work on how to cross the Jones River was done but nothing has really been designed. She stated geo-technical work to do the borings at the crossing and a construction engineer is still needed to determine how to build the bridge and a free standing structure to support the water main. She said based on these files, she would propose the portion of the project that doesn't involve the Jones River Bridge be utilized with ARPA funding to expedite the deadline. Chairman Loring said they need to remove the hurdle of the bridge to use the ARPA funding as best we can. A freestanding structure for a water main would probably be the best way to move forward. He added, later down the line, if Mass Highway wants to do the bridge, that's fine. Discussion continued regarding the age of the bridge and different options. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked where the current main is located. Superintendent Veracka said there's a 10 inch main on the south bound side under the sidewalk currently. There is a 6 inch cast iron main underneath the river that failed. Ms. Berger stated she remembered this Board discussing directional drilling at some point under the bridge, but we still need geo-technical work to be done.

Ms. Smith asked Superintendent Veracka if he had touched base with the Town Accountant on the ARPA application. He stated he spoke to the Town Administrator about it at one point. Ms. Smith said she last heard the Town Accountant had some questions filling the application out. Superintendent Veracka said he would follow up. Chairman Loring asked Ms. Berger to work closely with Superintendent Veracka to get those figures and specifications together for this project to go to bid.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

WATER RESTRICTION

Superintendent Veracka told the Board it was time to institute the annual water restriction. This is a voluntary water ban based on the calendar year beginning May 1. Discussion continued whether to do it by calendar year or streamflow. Last year the restrictions were done by calendar year and were streamlined, which made it easier for residents to follow with even houses watering on even days and odd houses watering on odd days, before 9am and after 5pm.
Vice Chairman Erlandsen moved to institute the calendar year based water restriction, with even houses/even days and odd houses/odd days with outside watering permitted before 9 am and after 5pm. Chairman Loring seconded the

motion and it was voted unanimously (2-0-0).

WATER MORATORIUM UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated he wants to work with Ms. Berger on more formal language for the water moratorium. There appears to be a difference of opinion with Town Counsel regarding language.
Chairman Loring said he believes the Board has the right to do what we did based on what we are pumping. Vice Chairman Erlandsen recommended using lots of care and due diligence to make sure the language is tight.

Superintendent Veracka stated he has not heard from the appraiser regarding the Kellerher Property. Chairman Loring asked Superintendent Veracka to contact the appraiser to follow up and obtain something in writing from them so that we can possibly set up a meeting with the Kelleher Estate to move forward.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

Superintendent Veracka stated he was looking at pumping figures before determining the hydrant flushing schedule, if any, for the spring. Chairman Loring agreed. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if it's affecting the water quality. Superintendent Veracka stated the water quality calls have decreased since the treatment plant was placed online and have moved from calls about water turbidity to calls regarding the chlorine smell. Chairman Loring stated he understands that while residents may recognize the smell as different; it's not overwhelming.

Ms. Smith said she had something she wanted to discuss. She wanted to straighten out the record from the last meeting. She stated she watched the meeting today as she had not been present. She said there was lengthy discussion with the Conservation Agent, Matt Penella. She pulled the meeting minutes of July 20, 2021. Mr. Penella had stated he had given plans to the previous Superintendent, Matt Darsch. He's right, he did. However, those plans that he gave him were design plans for the grant, they were not in detail showing the material to be used alongside the railing at the river. In August 2021, the only other mention of the drainage plan was that 'Superintendent Darsch walked the drainage area for the Conservation Commission's potential plan'. Since that meeting there had been no other mention of this plan.

Ms. Smith stated she felt it was unfair to let that meeting go without stating the facts of what was actually done. She wanted this on the record. She said it wasn't fair to have someone thrown under the bus that way. Chairman Loring stated, at least for the record, Ms. Smith should notify Mr. Penella and the Conservation Commission of exactly what our records indicate happened. He added, while we are not opposed to their proposal we are concerned about the impact on the property. Ms. Smith stated she didn't want that to be the final mention of the events. She felt Matt Darsch deserved more than that.

Superintendent Veracka stated he was notified by the Town Administrator that the Board of Selectmen would be recognizing the public works employees this evening for National DPW Week. A proclamation will be read for both the water and sewer departments. Superintendent Veracka stated he would attend on behalf of the water department. Ms. Smith noted the Thorndike presentation scheduled for tonight's Board of Selectman meeting has been rescheduled until June 20th. Chairman Loring stated he will not be in the country. Vice Chairman Erlandsen volunteered to attend.

Ms. Smith called the Board's attention to a cell tower agreement in the packet. She said she received it today. Superintendent Veracka stated he had spoken with Tillman Infrastructure. They are a company looking to utilize a 100 x 150 ft area as a site to have a 180-300 foot antenna tower with guide wires. He said there is limited access there with utilities and it would pollute the air with another tower in that area. Chairman Loring stated that unless we had more information, he would not be comfortable voting about this. Superintendent Veracka stated he was unsure of the feasibility of this in Zone 1. Ms. Berger stated that Zone 1 activities are supposed to be related to water supply facilities; a cell tower doesn't fall under that category. Chairman Loring asked Superintendent Veracka to reach out to Tillman for more specific information about the project. He added, this would come down to a Board of Selectman decision in the end. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if the land was town property or water department property. Superintendent Veracka stated it is town property. Ms. Smith explained that all the cell tower equipment located on water tanks is on town property; however, the agreements and contracts are all worked out under the Board of Selectmen and the proceeds from payments are split evenly between the water department and the town. Discussion ensued regarding feasibility, responsible parties and rent/lease payments. Superintendent Veracka stated $500/month to put up a tower with guide wires is not worth it considering the inconvenience and access issues in the area. Discussion continued about the feasibility and the lack of detail regarding this proposal.

Ms. Smith reviewed some information that had been included in their meeting packets, referenced as FYI, regarding membership renewals, Mass DEP notifications, etc...

Chairman Loring said the MBTA Task Force will be meeting Thursday at 6pm in Room 101. He will be attending and told Vice Chairman Erlandsen if he'd like to attend he's welcome to do so.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

TBD
Chairman Loring stated the next meeting should be June 13th. However, we have a few conflicts as the office manager will be in Florida and the chairman will be in Great Britain. Vice Chairman Erlandsen said the Consumer Confidence Report needs to be approved for mailing by July 1st, so we would have to meet on the 13th. Chairman Loring stated we could meet on June 6th. Ms Smith asked what time, Chairman Loring and Vice Chairman Erlandsen both agreed at 4pm.

Chairman Loring asked if there was any more business for the Board. Ms. Smith stated that she was running behind on starting the shut-off program but would be doing so next week. She explained she prefers to get it started long before now so we can collect proceeds through June 30th; however it's been a little busy. She will do her best to get collections started. Chairman Loring asked when Brandi (Office Assistant) would be back. Ms. Smith said she would be returning June 5th.

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:
Vice Chairman Erlandsen moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (2-0-0).
The meeting adjourned at 4:44pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TIME: MAY 23, 2023 04:00 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)
JOIN ZOOM MEETING
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/81191310074?PWD=MEPQZCTLAFPNWDCZD2MXCU5JRXNMQT09
MEETING ID: 811 9131 0074
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PASSCODE: 932449
FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/U/KKY3CHVQT

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey L. Smith

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk