



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JUNE 6, 2023

7:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard W. Loring, Jr called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

In attendance were the following: Vice Chairman Robert Erlandsen, Commissioner Robert Kostka, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE, Superintendent Chris Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 9 AND MAY 23, 2023

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to accept the minutes of May 9, 2023. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to accept the minutes of May 23, 2023. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on (2-0-1).

Commissioner Kostka abstained.

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

WELL CLEANING, GRASSY HOLE I-86 RE: CONTRACT UPDATE WITH MAHER SERVICES

Ms. Berger stated the contracts for the well cleaning require signatures from the Town Administrator and Town Accountant at town hall. She stated the contractor has started sending requests and submittals for the pump maintenance. She stated regarding some different options to gain additional capacity, the contractor suggested replacing the impellers with larger-sized impellers to achieve higher flow and replace the pump. She stated this would cost approximately \$412.

Chairman Loring asked if that included the increased size of the impellers. Ms. Berger replied, yes and she stated the contractor is proposing a 6 stage pump versus a 4 stage pump. Superintendent Veracka stated it would be in our best interest to upgrade the pump. Ms. Berger stated we were always looking to increase the horsepower, so upgrading the pump makes sense. Commissioner Kostka asked if it made sense to keep the original pump/motor as a spare. Superintendent Veracka suggested holding on to it only if it meets the needs of the water department. Commissioner Kostka stated we may never use it but we may be able to use it in case of an emergency. Discussion continued regarding storage, size and needs/capacity of wells. Ms. Berger stated she would follow up with questions to be answered.

7:05pm resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting room.

Superintendent Veracka asked Ms. Berger if the VFD would be compatible with the upgraded pump and motor. She did say that was one of the concerns the contractor had brought to her attention. She said she would need to follow up on that issue.

Chairman Loring made the motion to approve the increased cost of the replacement pump motor of \$412 plus freight. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

MORATORIUM LANGUAGE, UPDATE FROM MASS DEP

Ms. Berger advised the Board that Mass DEP has confirmed that a municipality can declare a water connection moratorium without Mass DEP approval. She spoke directly with Jim McLaughlin, Drinking Water Chief of the Southeast Region, of Mass DEP and he verified this with others at Mass DEP. He said Mass DEP can give assistance, if needed, but it is not required.

Chairman Loring stated in his opinion, he recommends sending a memo to both the Town Administrator and Town Counsel with this information to complete the communication loop.

Ms. Berger stated, Mr. McLaughlin supported this effort to protect the existing customer base, and said that Kingston is not the only town seeing these same challenges regarding increased development and the limited land available for well development. Ms. Berger did make him aware that Kingston was being proactive and actively seeking a new well and pursuing a land acquisition to do so. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned he saw the exceedance of Kingston's withdrawal permit; however, Ms. Berger explained the situation with the start up of the treatment plant last summer. She added, 2022 was an unusual year to deal with regarding water usage and permit limitations.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if anything else would be coming forward from MassDEP regarding the exceedance of the permit. She stated she shared all the information with Mass DEP and that Kingston would need a new permit eventually for the construction of a new well.

Ms. Berger stated she let Mass DEP know the water ban has been implemented. Commissioner Kostka asked about the signage for the water restriction. Superintendent Veracka stated they would be going out; he needed to go through all the signs and pull the appropriate ones. Vice Chairman Erlandsen thanked Ms. Berger for addressing this issue.

Discussion continued regarding alternative sites to advertise the water restriction.

APPROVE THE 2022 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Ms. Berger asked the Board if they were ready to approve the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report. Chairman Loring made the motion to approve the Consumer Confidence report. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

FILE UPDATES RE: WATER DISTRIBUTION MAP, MAIN ST WATER MAIN PROJECT ETC...

Ms. Berger asked Superintendent Veracka if he had been able to review the water markups for the distribution map. Superintendent Veracka said he has been "slammed lately" but it is at the top of his priority list.

Commissioner Kostka thanked Ms. Smith for clarifying a previous meeting discussion regarding the Conservation Drainage Project and Matt Darsch. He said it was important that the Board have all the facts and he appreciated the time Ms. Smith took to provide that clarification and absolve Matt of any miscommunication.

Ms. Berger stated she will be working on the specs for Phase 1 of the Main Street Water Main Project. Superintendent Veracka stated he needed some information regarding that project for the ARPA application. Chairman Loring stated this needs to be up there in importance of doing it within a reasonable time frame and cost efficiency. He added, the bridge will need to be a separate piece. Ms. Berger added, the bridge could take 6-12 months with permits alone. Chairman Loring said the bridge will be a historical issue and may require widening of sidewalks. He asked if those issues are the responsibility of the water department or is a separate water main above the ground and separate from the bridge the smarter way to go? He added, cost effectiveness will have to be considered throughout the process.

Ms. Berger added, trench technology has improved and changed a lot over the years. It may be beneficial to talk to those operators and see what our options are. She said, if we could go underneath, that would eliminate the bridge issue altogether. Discussion continued regarding other options. Superintendent Veracka suggested using the abandoned

underwater main perhaps as a chaser/guide. Chairman Loring stated that may be something to look at. Commissioner Kostka stated that this is specialized work for industry professionals. Discussion continued regarding cooperation and communication with Mass Highway and the town's superintendent of trees, streets and parks.

Ms. Berger updated the Board on the status of the Grassy Hole I-86 Treatment Plant. We are still waiting for the unit heater, which is expected to arrive later this month. Superintendent Veracka stated that regarding the SCADA work, he had spoken with Mike Leary and he was still waiting for the harness.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

ELM ST WATER TANK UPDATE WITH CELL TOWER REMOVAL TO TEMPORARY STRUCTURE

Superintendent Veracka referenced the temporary antennae site at the Elm St Water Tank. He said trees have been removed. Geo technical test borings have been done. The asset management company (USG -Utility Services Group) is coordinating bi-weekly meetings and the project is currently on track. Contractors are looking to start the end of July or beginning of August moving equipment.

ARPA APPLICATION THROUGH PLYMOUTH COUNTY FOR MAIN ST WATER MAIN PROJECT

Superintendent Veracka will be working with Ms. Berger on this application for funding.

WATER RESTRICTION IS NOW IN EFFECT; POSTED ON WEBSITE AND PACTV

As previously stated, Superintendent Veracka said he will sort through the water restriction signs and will have them distributed throughout town

JUNE WATER/SEWER BILLS ARE COMPLETE

The June water/sewer bills have been completed.

SHUT OFF PROGRAM HAS BEGUN. FIRST GROUP OF LETTERS WERE SENT OUT WITH A SHUT OFF DATE OF JUNE 30, 2023.

The annual shut-off program has started. Ms. Smith stated she only has two groups that she's processed to date. She commented the amounts are much less than in previous years but it's typically the same accounts every year.

Aside from the shut-off program, Superintendent Veracka told the Board there have been several communication failures related to the cell tower removals on Pembroke St. After the recent removal of cell equipment, communications failed. A technician for AT&T/Sprint came out to assess the issue. A repair was made but shortly after, communications failed again. Another company came out (referred by our SCADA technician), identified and found the root of the problem. The result was, our wires were hanging along with the fire department's communication wires. This obviously affected fire department communications as well. A repair was made today and everything seems to be ok; however, the antenna is damaged and needs to be replaced. Chairman Loring told Superintendent Veracka to substantiate the damage, determine when it occurred and by who and make the cell company accountable. AT&T/Sprint removed their equipment. Their contractor was not diligent and professional in doing their work. Superintendent Veracka stated he would confirm with USG(formerly Veolia), the pre and post inspection reports and the contractor access logs. Commissioner Kostka stated if this is not permanently fixed, when we need communications in an emergency, something will go wrong. Superintendent Veracka stated he contacted the Fire Chief and he will contact Industrial Communications to correct the issue in the meantime. Chairman Loring reiterated that we need to make AT&T/Sprint accountable.

Superintendent Veracka stated he is preparing for the second quarter Lead and Copper sampling to go out next week. Letters will be mailed to all sites asking for participation. There are 60 residents and 4 schools that will be sampled.

The Conservation Commission's Drainage Project is well underway. Chairman Loring asked if they are aware of the water department's septic system location. Superintendent Veracka stated, yes.

Superintendent Veracka stated he received the appraisal for the Kelleher property. He said there was a slight increase from the previous appraisal. He will reach out to the estate. Commissioner Kostka asked if it was still within the amount

approved at the Town Meeting. Superintendent Veracka stated, yes it was. Chairman Loring stated since Chris has such a good rapport with the Kelleher estate, he recommends sharing the appraisal with the estate and asking how they would like to proceed. He said he would like this to go as smoothly as possible. Commissioner Kostka stated it should be simple and straight forward.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to authorize Superintendent Veracka to negotiate on the Board's behalf with the Kelleher Estate to acquire the land in question and bring to the Board an agreement. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

Superintendent Veracka told the Board there has been an update regarding the PFAS Class Action Suit. Sandman Law had previously asked if the Kingston Water Department wanted to participate in a class action lawsuit. The Board discussed it at the time and voted no due to our 'no detect' in our sampling. On May 25, 2023, Town Administrator Keith Hickey entered into a legal services agreement regarding this class action lawsuit, unbeknownst to anyone in the water department. Superintendent Veracka asked Mr. Hickey about this and he said he signed this regarding materials used to make firefighting equipment and fire fighting foam. Superintendent Veracka, having some knowledge of the foam referenced, knew it wasn't the same foam used by the Kingston Fire Department. He shared this with Mr. Hickey. Mr. Hickey contacted the attorney to confirm the purpose of the lawsuit and it was confirmed to be for the townwide PFAS, etc.. Mr. Hickey told Superintendent Veracka it would be at no cost to the water department. Chairman Loring stated the Board voted not to include the Kingston Water Department in the lawsuit due to no detects. He would like this on the record.

Discussion continued on the legal agreement signed by the town.

Ms. Berger stated if the levels for detection keep being lowered, we could find ourselves with a 'detect'. Chairman Loring stated class action lawsuits become so overburdened, that clients end up getting very little and the attorneys make all the money. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if there was anything to gain from this. Superintendent Veracka stated it would be one thing if we had PFAS detects. Discussion continued regarding PFAS, potential gain from a lawsuit, etc..

Superintendent Veracka stated Brandi Gordon, the water department administrative assistant, would be leaving for a full time position in the Recreation Department. This will take effect mid-July. Commissioner Kostka asked how many hours the water administrative assistant position was. Ms. Smith stated the position is 25 hours per week.

Superintendent Veracka stated Brandi's hire at Recreation will be approved at the next Selectmen's meeting on June 20th and we will be looking to fill this position.

Superintendent Veracka told the Board the Thorndike presentation is scheduled for June 20, 2023 at the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 6pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

PLANNING BOARD REQUEST FOR COMMENTS RE: 163 SUMMER ST/1 TREMONT ST COMMENTS REQUESTED BY JUNE 8

Related to water quality certificate. No action necessary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WATER COMMISSIONERS TO SIGN THE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATE FOR 163 SUMMER ST/1 TREMONT ST

The water quality certificate was signed by the Board.

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

SEE UNFINISHED BUSINESS ITEM

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated he could meet at 3:30pm for the next meeting and throughout the summer. Chairman Loring stated he would not be at the meeting on the 20th. Commissioner Kostka stated he could meet at 3:30pm on June 20th.

It was decided the meeting on June 20th would be at 3:30pm.

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20, 2023 - TIME TO BE DETERMINED

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: JUN 6, 2023 07:00 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk