



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JULY 25, 2023

3:30 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard Loring Jr called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

In attendance were Vice Chairman Erlandsen, Commissioner Kostka, Superintendent Chris Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Attending via ZOOM was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2023 AND JULY 11, 2023

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on (2-0-1). Chairman Loring abstained as he was not present on June 20, 2023.

Ms. Smith suggested the minutes of July 11, 2023 be tabled until the next meeting to allow all the members to read the minutes. She apologized for the minutes that were sent so late for review. Commissioner Kostka made the motion to table the minutes until the next meeting. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE

GRASSY HOLE / I-86 WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPDATE

Ms. Berger updated the Board on the stormwater pond washout issue. This pond washed out before the vegetation had been established to stabilize the material. She stated the contract required vegetation to be established to prevent erosion. Ms. Berger stated after the first washout incident in June of 2022, after the plant start-up testing, the contractor attempted to lay some material to get seed established. Unfortunately, it never took and the storm basin suffered a subsequent washout. The contractor has been arguing this is a design issue. Ms. Berger prepared a draft letter to send to the contractor to address this issue. She explained the performance guarantee period runs out in early August. She would like the contractor to address this concern before that period expires. Ms. Smith spoke up and apologized for not including the draft letter in the packets and proceeded to print out copies for the Board to review with the attached photos Ms. Berger included. Ms. Berger explained the photos to the Board and pointed out they can clearly see the mesh material that was laid to allow the vegetation to establish. However, the vegetation never took on any of the walls in the pond.

Commissioner Kostka asked if there was any hold back that could be used to do the repairs ourselves if need be. Ms. Berger stated yes. Commissioner Kostka stated the preference is to have the contractor fix it obviously. Chairman Loring stated the letter is well written and is appropriate in asking the contractor to return to correct the issue prior to end of the performance guarantee period. Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated we are in the same season as we were last year, so is it worth it to have them come back out and re-seed. Chairman Loring added, we need a commitment before

the warranty period expires for the contractors to come back out and correct the issue even if it's later in the fall after the heat of the summer. Ms. Smith asked Ms. Berger if it was only the performance bond remaining as there was no more retainage. Ms. Berger confirmed, yes that is true, the outstanding monies being held were for the unit heater. She stated this should've been included on the punch list for the retainage and she's unsure why it wasn't. Commissioner Kostka asked what our recourse was. Ms. Berger said it's the performance bond. She suggested the Board place her draft letter on the department letter head, sign it and scan a copy to her. She will email Winston Builders and send a hard copy.

At the last meeting, Superintendent Veracka mentioned the vent pipe for the new unit heater had been cut. Ms. Berger stated she followed up with the contractor and there was not anything included in the contract to deal with that. However, regarding the lagoon overflow pipe, she stated the contractor would address that with a steel plate with one inch holes.

WELL CLEANING UPDATE

Ms. Berger referred to our last meeting when it was decided that Maher would do the pump and motor replacement. Northstar Electrical has already received the VFD (variable frequency drive). However, the lead time on the motor is sometime in October so there won't be any work being done out there anytime soon.

Superintendent Veracka stated he spoke to Russ at Northstar and told them they would need to wait a bit to install as the well needed to be online to take water samples, etc.. He offered to pay for the VFD now so it would be held, but Northstar stated there was no issue holding onto it until the work could start.

MAIN ST WATER MAIN PROJECT UPDATES (IF ANY)

Ms. Berger stated she had no real updates on this project. She said she would meet with Chris later in August to go over the design and make some tweaks to the plan. It can then be sent to MassDOT for their review since it is a state road where the work is to be done.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

UPDATE ON KELLEHER PROPERTY - EMAIL DATED 7/14/23 FROM ESTATE REPRESENTATIVE

Superintendent Veracka stated he received a response from Greg McDowell, of the Kelleher Estate, and he stated they are having estate problems and are working on resolving the issues. Mr. McDowell stated he is still interested in working with the town on the land.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT INTERVIEWS TO BE DONE THIS WEEK, JULY 26 & JULY 27

Superintendent Veracka told the Board interviews start tomorrow for the Administrative Assistant position. They will continue on Thursday as well. He stated Tina Betti, the HR Director, Ms. Smith and himself would be conducting the interviews.

SHUT OFF PROGRAM HAS COLLECTED APPROXIMATELY \$75K OR 64% OF THE TOTAL IN OUTSTANDING WATER BILLS.

The shut-off program continues to bring in revenue. Ms. Smith stated as of today, 72% of those notified of overdue balances have been collected. Chairman Loring said it will be nice to have an Administrative Assistant that can assist Stacey with this program. Commissioner Kostka acknowledged the work that goes into the program and thanked Ms. Smith for her efforts.

WATER TANK - CELL TOWER UPDATES - ELM ST & PEMBROKE ST

Superintendent Veracka told the Board there had been a few delays with removing the cell equipment at the Elm St Tank. One of these delays is acquiring high grade steel for the tower. This is 3-4 weeks behind schedule. They have removed trees and laid the foundation for the temporary tower. Commissioner Kostka asked if there was a target date to start the work. Superintendent Veracka said we expect to be able to take the tank offline by the beginning of September. The cell antennae should be off prior to that.

Commissioner Kostka asked if there was any indication of how long the tank painting would last. Superintendent Veracka stated, barring any issues, it should take about a month. Chairman Loring added, the good thing is that if it gets

delayed any later, into September, it's outside the increased water demands of summer.

Superintendent Veracka updated the Board regarding the Pembroke St Tank. A cell company attempted to do an upgrade. During review of the plans by USG, our tank maintenance provider, comments were sent to the cell provider (Sprint) and they never responded to the questions and concerns. The upgrade has been halted until all of this is cleared up. The cell companies are behind schedule but that remains their problem, not ours.

VACANT POSITION - PUMP OPERATOR AS OF JULY 28, 2023

Superintendent Veracka updated the Board that Wade Sinclair's last day of employment was Monday July 24, 2023. Mr. Sinclair documented that he left at 11:15 am without pay through the end of the week.

The pump operator position will be posted soon.

Superintendent Veracka stated the water department responded to a water main break on Friday July 18, 2023 on Clearing Farm Road. We utilized the help of the highway to mitigate the repair. He reported a slip joint failed and they lost about 10 feet of pipe.

Chairman Loring stated his concern is this occurred in close proximity to the Whistler Lane break in December 2021. He asked if there was concern regarding the PVC pipe or was this a coincidence. Superintendent Veracka stated he hasn't been able to look at the pipe to determine what the possible cause was, as he was on vacation at the time of the break and the pipe is currently in the foreman's truck and now he is on vacation. He added, the first break was related to a large rock on the bell of the water main.

Superintendent Veracka said regarding the follow-up on the lead and copper test results, thank you letters have gone out to residents for their participation and all reporting agencies have been notified.

NEW BUSINESS:

UPDATE FROM VICE CHAIRMAN ERLANDSEN RE: THORNDIKE PRESENTATION AT BOS MEETING JULY 11, 2023

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated the "gist" of the presentation was how Thorndike Development was going to address the demographics of the town in the development. As it relates to the water department there was nothing new mentioned. He stated his concern was the "closed" water and sewer system that the developer proposed with the intent of later connecting to the town's system. He said his concern was what kind of facilities and systems would be involved in disposing of their gray water and such.

Chairman Loring stated that this Board has been very clear with Thorndike that we are not looking to take over a private system. He added, a new town well needs to be large enough to supply the town and not be immediately overwhelmed by private development.

3:59 pm Resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting.

Chairman Loring continued, he feels we have to be very careful as to how the Board moves forward. Discussion continued regarding potential issues with a private system.

Chairman Loring stated he has signed a memo regarding the Elm St drainage project to the Conservation Commission, Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen and it will be sent out.

Additionally, he stated on July 19, 2023 at approx 9:30am he was at the Town Hall to pay a bill and noticed the irrigation on the front lawn of the Town House was running. He added, we cannot expect any residents to abide by our rules and regulations when we have various department heads running water systems to make lawns green and that's exactly what is happening. He asked that the Town Administrator be made aware of this and mention it at the next Department Head meeting. Superintendent Veracka stated he addressed this with the Facilities Department Administrative Assistant, Melissa. Commissioner Kostka said the water restriction sign on the Town House front lawn is probably getting wet. Superintendent Veracka said he spoke again with Melissa today and explained to her she needed to

manually turn the system on and off.

Chairman Loring stated it's an embarrassment that we ask the residents to conserve water, but the Town House pays no attention to the regulation and it looks like they care very little about the issue. Commissioner Kostka said it's not a small issue. He added, he's very aware of the schedule as his property is in a highly trafficked area and the last thing he wants is the appearance of a water commissioner not following the restriction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

MEMO TO CONSERVATION COMMISSION RE: DRAINAGE PROJECT ON ELM ST

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

AUGUST 8, 2023

After a brief review of dates and times, the Board agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday August 9, 2023 at 3:30pm.

Chairman Erlandsen stated he will be out of town.

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:05pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: JUL 25, 2023 03:30 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84820572309?PWD=VGDDRHDMTVR5NNAYT2G5WHDVM2FUUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84820572309?pwd=VGDDRHDMTVR5NNAYT2G5WHDVM2FUUT09)

MEETING ID: 848 2057 2309

PASSCODE: 903503

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk

