



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
OCTOBER 16, 2023

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard J. Loring, Jr called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

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

Attending via ZOOM: resident Mark Guidoboni.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Commissioner Robert Erlandsen made the motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2023 as presented.

Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted 2-0-1.

Commissioner Kostka abstained as he was not present at the meeting of September 25, 2023.

APPOINTMENTS:

BRIAN DONAHOE, SEWER COMMISSIONER RE: SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLE- ARTICLE 13: LEECHING FIELDS

Brian Donahoe, sewer commissioner, was present to ask for the Board's support for the sewer department's article for the leeching fields. He said this article failed at the Spring Town Meeting and he was unsure why. Mr. Donahoe stated the basis for the project is to complete the wastewater treatment plant as it was voted at the annual town meeting in 1997. The first phase of the project eliminated the large problems in the Rocky Nook area regarding the raw sewerage that flowed. There are currently 700 plus people on the waiting list for sewer. He added, we are just getting to capacity with the third and fourth tanks online.

Mr. Donahoe stated he has only been on the sewer commission as an appointee since August 1, 2023. It has been twenty years since he was elected to the commission. Currently, he said there is no capacity to grow and there is no additional revenue due to the sewer moratorium. They are unable to improve the system, they can only maintain it. The fields were designed as a backup for the first two tanks and this project should have been completed back in 2015. The proposed fields, in this article, are large enough to use for the entire system. He added, right up to the day before the treatment plant started up, the goal had always been to use reclaimed water from the treatment plant for irrigation, as opposed to using town water to do the same thing. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, the person in charge at the time decided that was not going to happen. They have been forced to use their current fields beyond capacity. Typically, if the fields fail, it's catastrophic. We have seen some minor backups in the monitoring wells.

Mr. Donahoe stated if this article passes at the town meeting, the fields can be expected to be completed within twelve months. On the other hand, if the article doesn't pass, an example of a catastrophic failure would be the leeching fields could result in treated, undisinfected wastewater running into the river. This would close all the shellfish beds in the bay.

Six months of weddings at Indian Pond Country Club may have to be canceled due to sewerage coming out of the ground. Mr. Donahoe said these are all examples of what could happen.

Commissioner Kostka asked Mr. Donahoe if he could explain, from a water quality point of view, the difference between municipal leeching fields versus private septic systems. Mr. Donahoe stated private septic systems contain 10-100 times more nitrogen than municipal leeching fields. The municipal leeching fields have reduced nitrogen by over 500 mL per liter per year. Continued explanation was provided by Mr. Donahoe. He stated he has been going to all the boards and committees and presenting the reason and necessity for the project.

Mr. Donahoe presented the map of the sewer system that has been in operation since 2001-2003. It geographically covers 15% of the town. The current plan permits 700,000 gallons per day. He stated that Town and Country Mobile Home Park has its own wastewater treatment plant. He proceeded to explain a nitrogen study and how nitrogen suffocates the bay due to algae growth. Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated that this project is about the health of the current system, not future growth. Mr. Donahoe explained that the current system is permitted for a specific capacity and they have to stay within that capacity. Mr. Donahoe stated this article is about fixing the current issue. He added, the 230 mobile home units have a direct line under the black swamp direct to the river. The sewer commission is reserving open 44K gallons of capacity when and if the park asks them for it.

Commissioner Kostka asked if the reason the article failed in the Spring was due to uninformed voters. Mr. Donahoe believes the issue became politicized. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to support Article 15, the wastewater leeching fields project. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion. Discussion continued regarding the placement of the fields.

Superintendent Veracka asked if the leeching fields are utilized underneath the transfer station parking area. Mr. Donahoe stated that has never been used. It may need to be in the future.

Chairman Loring asked for the location of these proposed fields. Mr. Donahoe showed him on the map. The site is in between Indian Pond Estates and the train station.

Chairman Loring asked elevation wise, what does it do to the land the leeching fields sit on? Mr. Donahoe stated it stays the same. Chairman Loring stated, his concern is that as we develop projects in the future, does support of this article negatively impact us, in regards to well development and installation of tank storage? Mr. Donahoe addressed his concerns regarding the locations of the wells.

Chairman Loring asked questions regarding upper Main Street to the intersection of Tura's Corner and the exclusion of sewer in the area. Mr. Donahoe remembers there was pushback at the time with the Board of Health which prevented that area from being connected. Chairman Loring stated he just doesn't want to see any decision made now that will affect this Board negatively in the future. Commissioner Kostka stated if we don't support this, this may directly affect the quality of water we pump. The most important thing we can do is to maintain the quality of our water.

Chairman Loring asked what is the total cost of the article being proposed? Mr. Donahoe stated the total cost of the project is \$13,000,000. That covers the fields, the pump station and the construction.

Chairman Loring asked for a vote on the motion to support Article 15 at the Special Town Meeting.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen voted yes and Commissioner Kostka voted yes. Chairman Loring abstained.

The vote was 2-0-1.

Mr. Donahoe said he appreciated the Board's time.

ATTY RICHARD SANDMAN RE: PFAS CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

Atty Sandman was a "no show" at the meeting. Nothing discussed or presented.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT - GRASSY HOLE-I/86

Ms. Berger stated the water treatment facility project is officially completed. The stormwater basin has been repaired and is complete. Winston Builders submitted a final invoice. The SRF program requires a checklist which is included in the packet.

She went on to say, CEI had provided a flashdrive with all the records and documents from the treatment plant project. She will prepare the final SRF reimbursement submittal and closeout. She will include Winston Builders, Resilient CE and asked if anything had been received by CEI. She said she spoke to Mike Ohl at CEI but had not received any submissions. Chairman Loring recommended an official document be sent to CEI requesting any final invoices for the project with a deadline to submit any and all invoices for this project by October 31, 2023. He asked the document be sent via certified mail with a return receipt. Discussion continued regarding the closeout of the SRF.

I/86 WELL CLEANING AND PUMP REPLACEMENT

Ms. Berger stated Maher Services ran into a hiccup with the well cleaning. The column and shafts are not made of the expected material. They are corroded, as they are not stainless steel, and the threads are not usable. Maher was involved with the original well when it was constructed. However, nothing matches up with their records and there are no records at the water department to verify. The cost to replace these parts is \$14,900. This change is within the budget for the project.

Chairman Loring asked if we had a project representative on site. Superintendent Veracka stated he's been stopping by frequently. He added, the parts are in stock and the well is cleaned.

Chairman Loring wants to be sure we have solid records of what is being installed for future reference.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to accept the \$14,900 to replace the unexpected repairs as submitted by Maher Services for the I-86 well site. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0). Ms. Berger stated it will be a couple more weeks before the well is back online.

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN

Ms. Berger stated she received the DOT stationing from the surveyor and they line up well. Ms. Berger said she is working on adding additional water services that have since been added to the system, Superintendent Veracka is working with the foreman to pull the tie cards. Once compiled, they will submit that information to Ms. Berger and they can be added and then the design work can be started.

WMA GRANT PROPOSAL

Ms. Berger presented the Water Management Grant opportunity proposal. The actual submittal is a maximum of 6 pages. It includes a letter of support and the scope of the proposed work. The scope of this proposal is the source capacity and a water rate study. She said the program is geared towards source water, capacity and mitigating impacts on the environment. This will allow us to look at the current system and future needs.

Commissioner Kostka asked, approximately where in the high zone would we locate an additional water tank. Ms. Berger stated we will look at current land available, elevation and hydrogeology will need to be looked at.

Ms. Berger stated, regarding the water rate study, it will consist of constructing an Excel rate model to see the impact on revenue and ratepayers. This will allow us to try out different options and results.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked when we would be notified if the grant is approved. Ms. Berger responded, January or so.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked, if we don't get the approval can we reapply or is it something should look to pursue on our own? Ms. Berger stated it is useful information to obtain.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to move the Water Management Act grant submission. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

WATER REPAIRMAN POSITION UPDATE - WILLIAM DUGGAN

Superintendent Veracka stated William Duggan started this week at the water department as our new water repairman.

He transferred over from the highway department. Superintendent Veracka stated he is both anxious and enthusiastic to get started in his new role.

ELM STREET WATER TANK MAINTENANCE PROJECT UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated the interior of the tank had been blasted and primed. Tomorrow, weather permitting, the work on the outside of the tank will start.

Commissioner Kostka asked when the estimated completion was expected. Superintendent Veracka stated, they are hoping to be done by Thanksgiving. He said there would be a change order coming regarding a proposal for a new cabinet to house the SCADA equipment and the control panel for the mixer inside. Commissioner Kostka asked if the shed would be removed if a new cabinet is installed? Superintendent Veracka said, the transfer switch to the generator is stored within the shed.

THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT WILL BE ATTENDING A TRAINING WORKSHOP ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, ENTITLED "HOW TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE FRONT LINE CUSTOMER SERVICE" PRESENTED BY NEW ENGLAND WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION. THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE DAY.

Superintendent Veracka stated both Stacey and Laurie would be attending an all-day conference tomorrow in Holliston at New England Water Works. The office will be closed tomorrow.

Additionally, Superintendent Veracka said he heard the final paving will be taking place this week in the parking lot. He has no further information. He was told by Conservation they would be in sometime between Monday and Wednesday. Chairman Loring asked him to contact the conservation agent to get more detailed information so that our staff could be better informed and prepared.

Chairman Loring asked if there was an update on the Kelleher Property. Ms. Smith reminded the Board that this was not listed on the agenda and any discussion on the topic would need to be held for a future meeting. Chairman Loring asked Ms. Smith to place this item under Unfinished Business on future agendas.

NEW BUSINESS:

NOTICE OF 3M CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT- THE DEADLINE TO OPT OUT IS DECEMBER 4, 2023

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NEW WATER RATES HAVE BEEN POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AS OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

LETTERS TO SEASONAL PROPERTIES REGARDING THE TURN ON AND TURN OFF FEE OF \$35.00 BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

MONDAY OCTOBER 30, 2023 AT 4PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: OCT 16, 2023 04:00 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk