TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J. MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
DECEMBER 11, 2023

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Richard W. Loring Jr called the meeting to order at 4pm.
In attendance were Vice Chairman Robert Erlansen, Commissioner Robert Kostka, Superintendent Chris Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith.
Attending via ZOOM was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, NOVEMBER 28 & DECEMBER 1, 2023

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to accept the minutes of November 15, 2023. Chairman Loring seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Erlandsen abstained. The motion was voted (2-0-1).
Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to accept the minutes of November 28, 2023. Chairman Loring seconded the motion. Commissioner Kostka abstained. The motion was voted (2-0-1).
Commissioner Kostka made the motion to accept the minutes of December 1, 2023. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

GRASSY HOLE/I-86 WATER TREATMENT PLANT - WINSTON BUILDERS HYPO TANK AREA REPAIR

Ms. Berger stated the hypo area repairs at the plant have been made. She's waiting for confirmation from the town of receipt of the final SRF reimbursement request. She stated that other than that, this project is officially finished.

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT

Ms. Berger told the Board she met with Chris and her associate, Bob, last week to go over the proposed layout of Main Street Water Main Project. They are working on the drafting and the specs. She stated they hope to have a good set of plans available to submit to Mass DOT by the end of the month. They do take a little bit of time for their review. She will also get a copy of the specs over to the Town House.

Ms. Smith stated she heard from the Town Accountant's Office that Kingston was awarded the additional ARPA funding for this project from Plymouth County. Ms. Berger stated she worked with Stacey today to see if there were any special requirements, and they appear to be very minimal.

Ms. Berger stated that was all she had for water updates.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

FOREMAN'S POSITION HAS BEEN POSTED

Superintendent Veracka stated the foreman's position has been posted internally, on the website and on the New

England Water Works Association website.

ELM STREET WATER TANK PROJECT UPDATE

The Elm Street Tank Maintenance project is nearing completion. The cable trays and brackets have been installed for the cell phone wires. They will return tomorrow to button up the last of the work. The tank is now ready to be filled. Commissioner Kostka said it appeared to be a project that ran rather smoothly.

SOUTH STREET VFD UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated a new VFD has been installed and the equipment is covered by a warrantee. However, the labor was not covered.

NEW BUSINESS:

VOTE ALLOCATED MUNICIPAL COSTS FOR FY25. THESE COSTS HAVE INCREASED APPROX 6K OVER LAST YEAR MOSTLY DUE TO INSURANCE INCREASES.

Ms. Smith presented the shared municipal costs for FY25. They have increased overall by 6K and that is due mostly to insurance costs.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the FY25 allocated municipal costs in the amount of $428,148. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

VOTE AMOUNT TO BE LIENED FOR WATER BILLS. THE MINIMUM TO BE LIENED IS $75.

Ms. Smith said the Board needs to vote on the FY23 liens. She explained the annual process the Collector's Office performs with providing a report of the balances that historically have been over $100. However, in light of the revenue shortfalls we ran into last year, Ms. Smith thought it might be appropriate to lower the threshold to $75. The Collector's Office ran a report. However, it was incorrect as it had not been run with the correct parameters and there is no total to vote this evening. Since the Board will not be meeting prior to the liens being placed, Ms. Smith asked if the Board could vote the lien threshold of $75 and once the report is finalized, she can bring a total back before the Board. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if there was any idea how much this would increase the amount by lowering the threshold. Ms. Smith said she doesn't know as the original report wasn't run with the correct parameters. She did say in years past, it's been as high as 150K and as low as 75K. The report she received was only 45K and she knew that wasn't correct. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to lower the lien amount to $75 for FY23 bills. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

Superintendent Veracka stated that aside from this discussion, the office has received a few calls regarding the chlorine smell in the water. Superintendent Veracka stated he and Ms. Smith had worked with Ms. Berger to put together a handout explaining the treatment process and that has been placed on the website for reference. Ms Smith added, the Town Administrator contacted us as well about the issue because a resident had spoken at a recent Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the chlorine smell. The Town Administrator had requested something for public outreach and so the handout was published on the website.Commissioner Kostka asked if there was explanation as to why the chlorine is more noticeable now to some people. Superintendent Veracka stated it's similar to when Trackle Pond went online. Chairman Loring wondered if it had something to do with Elm St Tank being emptied and so the transfer of water from the well to the system is a little quicker. Commissioner Kostka said that's a very good point but the chlorine in the system isn't harmful. Superintendent Veracka stated the chlorine in the water is not for disinfection, it's a by-product of the treatment process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

KELLEHER PROPERTY UPDATE, IF ANY

Superintendent Veracka stated he heard from Greg McDowell regarding the Kelleher estate. He stated things are moving very slowly, but there is progress being made with the probate issues. Mr. McDowell stated "it's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when" the property will be sold to the Town of Kingston. Superintendent Veracka stated there is progress being made.

Aside from this discussion, Superintendent Veracka stated at our last meeting on November 28, 2023, an earth removal permit application had been delivered to the water department by the engineer representing the applicant. Superintendent Veracka stated he wanted to request a review by our engineer, seeing that a considerable amount of earth is being proposed to be removed (1.1 million cubic yards). Superintendent Veracka also stated he reached out to the Town Planner, Valerie Massard and asked her about the application. She stated she knew nothing about it. He added, today we received a request from the Board of Selectmen's Office for comments due no later than this Thursday, December 14, 2023, at noon.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked how much land size and depth that entails. Superintendent Veracka stated these are all concerns to submit to the Board of Selectman and requires collaboration with our engineer. Chairman Loring stated this deadline provides an inadequate time for our engineer to review. He recommends a request for reasonable time for our engineer to perform a thorough review of the information. For whatever reason, this application was not transmitted to all departments in a timely manner and does not allow any of us to review it adequately.
Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked, what do they want to do with all this dirt? Superintendent Veracka stated the earth is to go to Plympton Sand & Gravel.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked Ms. Berger how much time is needed for her to review. He said he assumes this Thursday would not work. Ms. Berger stated that is a really tight and not likely. Commissioner Kostka stated he is vehemently opposed to making any comments until we have had our engineer and the Town Planner have a chance to review the material.

Superintendent Veracka stated the earth removal is proposed to prepare the site for a cranberry bog and tail water pond for the students at Cardinal Cushing School. Chairman Loring stated the potential impacts to the ground water table need to be considered and this should not be disguised as anything other than a gravel removal permit to remove gravel. He suggested a motion to ask the Board of Selectmen to hold off on any vote until a complete review has been done by the water department.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made a motion to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking them to postpone any vote on this matter to allow our engineer to review the proposal and provide feedback. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

Chairman Loring asked Superintendent Veracka to detail his concerns. Superintendent Veracka stated his first concern is the proximity of the project to the Trackle Pond Well Site. He stated the excavation depth close to the water table and it removes a large portion of the earth's natural filter. He is concerned about the impact of changing the topography so drastically and adding a clay-lined tailwater pond. Superintendent Veracka stated the project references an "organic" cranberry bog, but there is potential for herbicides, pesticides, salt run off and car accident fluids from Route 44.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated there are many unanswered questions. Chairman Loring asked what the minimum elevation above the water table would be for the bog itself, the ditches surrounding the bog and the tailwater pond. Commissioner Kostka stated it could all potentially be within the water table. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked Ms. Berger, what's a reasonable amount of time for you to review this information? Ms. Berger stated she needed a couple of weeks to review the materials. Commissioner Kostka asked if Ms. Berger would be able to have a review done by our first meeting in January. Ms. Berger stated yes, that would be adequate time.

Discussion continued regarding concerns about the transfer and redistribution of water.

Ms. Smith noted that this was not on the agenda for discussion. However, in light of the request for comments and the deadline received this afternoon, it was necessary that this be discussed.
She also presented the departmental report for the Annual Town Report which is due January 19, 2023. She stated she will be out due to surgery beginning January 2nd, and she wanted it done before her departure. Ms. Smith asked the Board to review it and give her their thoughts and feedback.

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

"OPT OUT" LETTERS FOR DUPONT AND 3M PFAS CLASS ACTION LAWSUITS.
DUPONT WAS MAILED OUT DEC 1, 2023 AND 3M WAS MAILED OUT DEC 6, 2023

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

CONFIRM TO RESUME OUR REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE (2ND & 4TH TUESDAY) AND MEET JANUARY 9, 2024 AT 4PM
The next meeting will be January 9, 2024 at 4pm.

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 4:27pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING
JOIN ZOOM MEETING
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89052013207?PWD=AWNZOWIYK01WCGZJR2VEBFJNDVLSQT09
MEETING ID: 890 5201 3207
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DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION
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MEETING ID: 890 5201 3207
PASSCODE: 444915
FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/U/KDWSDDJYBD

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey L. Smith

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk