TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
MAY 28, 2024

**4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER**
Commissioner Richard W. Loring Jr called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
In attendance were Commissioner Robert Erlandsen, Commissioner Robert Kostka, Superintendent Chris Veracka, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and Clerk Stacey Smith.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND VOTE FOR REORGANIZATION OF BOARD
Commissioner Loring stated the first order of business was to reorganize the Board. At this time, he asked Ms. Smith to take nominations.
Commissioner Kostka nominated Commissioner Loring as Chairman. Commissioner Erlandsen seconded that nomination.
Commissioner Kostka nominated Commissioner Erlandsen to remain as Vice Chairman. Commission Loring seconded the nomination.
Ms. Smith read the slate of nominees as Richard W. Loring Jr. for Chairman and Commissioner Robert Erlandsen as Vice Chairman.
The slate was voted unanimously as read (3-0-0).

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 23, MAY 8 AND MAY 14, 2024
Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 28, May 8 and May 14 as published. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

**APPOINTMENTS:**

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE

2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT - VOTE TO APPROVE FOR MAILING/PUBLISHING BY JUNE 30
Ms. Berger presented the 2023 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). She told the Board page 2 was updated to reflect the new filtration facility, page 4 was updated with the 2023 testing results and page 5 is a new page specific to water conservation, encouraging residents to follow water restrictions and instructing them how to check for leaks in their homes. She said she will insert an example of the two different meters used throughout town.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated PFAS has received a lot of attention in the news. He asked if more attention could be called to it in the report. He said he feels it's better to notify the public that our system has had no detects. Ms. Berger stated she could add and highlight that on page 2. She stated she would make adjustments to highlight the information.

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT - STATUS UPDATE
Ms. Berger stated the contractor has received their bond insurance. She stated a meeting next week is scheduled for June 4th with Project Inspector Matt Darsch and Superintendent Chris to go over the construction plan. She will have the contract book ready for that meeting and then Chris can get all the signatures needed. Ms Berger stated a pre-construction contractor meeting will be scheduled with all including public safety. Her target date for that meeting is June 11th. The Mass DOT permit is in the issuance stage and expected by June 5th. In addition to the contractor's performance/payment bond. A maintenance bond is also required with the DOT permit; however, the contractor

cannot get the maintenance bond without the permit. Once the permit is issued, then the maintenance bond can be acquired.

Ms. Berger presented a draft of the public education for the project. This consisted of two pages including a map of the work area.
Chairman Loring suggested removing the construction lines and lot lines to clear up the picture. Ms. Berger agreed.
Chairman Loring recommended landmarks such as Cancun Restaurant and Kingston Elementary School be marked on the map for easier understanding of the location of work.
Chairman Loring recommended removing the funding portion. Commissioner Kostka agreed and stated, while it's important to show we did our due diligence to avoid loans; it's not necessary for this purpose. Ms. Berger stated that will allow for more room.

WATER GRANT STUDY - RATE AND STORAGE STUDY

Clerks notes: This was a very detailed presentation of a 38-page PowerPoint presentation. This presentation is included in its entirety as an attachment. For the purposes of these minutes, only dialogue between Ms. Berger, the Board and attendees will be recorded.

**High unaccounted for water in 2022 and 2023**: Ms. Berger reviewed the unaccounted for water percentages between 2014 and 2023. Between 2021 and 2023, the percentages increased significantly. She said there were some reporting errors that were addressed and recently corrected. However, there is no clear explanation for the remaining amount. Ms. Berger stated she is aware the water department has been chasing a rash of leaks across town and recommended leak detection be done. Ms. Berger stated the residential usage of 65 gals per day/per capita recommended by DEP has increased over the last couple of years in Kingston to 70 gals per day/ per capita. Chairman Loring stated it's difficult to get the residents to participate in reducing usage for the benefit of the entire system. He said we need to make sure that town government is leading the way. Ms. Berger stated a more concerted effort to educate the public is needed. For instance, Ms. Berger mentioned the WaterSmart Program in schools. Ms. Smith stated we use WaterSmart through North and South Rivers Collaborative and have for years. Discussion continued on ideas regarding capturing the public either through social media, community TV, etc..

Commissioner Kostka stated he is concerned Mass DEP may object to a new well permit with our current usage levels. Ms. Berger stated they won't stand in the way of developing a new source, but they may not issue a larger use permit. Chairman Loring stated the fact that service connections between 2014 and 2023 increased by 27% should certainly be enough to justify the increase in usage. He was surprised the service connections had increased by so much.

**Water restriction efforts**: Vice Chairman Erlandsen said with the higher users that are residential, how do we go about restricting their outdoor use without increasing rates across the town? Ms. Berger stated that's where education can help. Ms. Berger stated the Board has the ability to implement more stringent restrictions. She recommended it may be worthwhile to develop a specific water restriction bylaw. This would help bring the issue to the public's attention to educate. Chairman Loring referenced past practice was even numbered houses on Tues/Sat and odd numbered houses on Thurs/Sun.
Ms. Smith stated she would track when the restrictions changed to even houses/even days and odd houses/odd days.

**Source capacity:** A new source was identified as necessary. Recent issues with wells when the Elm St Tank was down for maintenance and when the I-86 well was down during the construction of Grassy Hole Treatment Plant brought this need for a new source to light. The property that KWD is actively trying to purchase for a new well is southwest of Trackle Pond Treatment Facility. Ms. Berger stated she contacted neighboring water systems that border Kingston to inquire about their ability to provide water to Kingston in the event of a catastrophic event. She said Duxbury could provide water for up to a week for a small section of town, but not during the week of July 4th. Pembroke is in the same situation as Kingston and is in the process of building a new well. Plymouth stated they could possibly provide a permanent metered interconnection with an inter-municipal agreement. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked what would happen in an emergency such as a catastrophic situation. What's our Plan B? Ms. Berger explained the difference between a "boil order" and mutual aid for something like a bad storm or natural catastrophe. She further added, Plymouth said it might be possible to provide supplemental water in the long term, but added, it's a heavily political issue. Ms. Berger stated Mass DEP will require approval of the site of the Kelleher property for a well site. She stated it's not something to hold up the sale but something to pursue once the land is purchased. Chairman Loring agreed and stated we need to proceed with the purchase of the land.

**Storage Capacity:** Ms. Berger stated that between the low and high zone, currently KWD has enough storage for current needs. The concern is the expansion of the high zone. She stated four sites have been identified as potential locations. One of the properties is the wastewater property over on Country Club Way where the leeching fields are being constructed. Commissioner Kostka asked if there were any sanitary issues with a water storage tank on the property. Ms. Berger stated no, but there are geotechnical issues that would need to be addressed. Superintendent Veracka stated this location creates redundancy in the area. Ms. Berger revised the other potential sites and discussion ensued regarding the advantages and disadvantages to each location. Additional discussion took place regarding when a tank will be necessary and the budgeting of current loans and the pay-off of debt. Ms. Berger stated that will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting with the rate study portion. Commissioner Kostka stated at the time the treatment plants were built they were both considered "emergencies" and required us to switch priority on projects and seek funding sources.

**WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

<u>CREW CONTINUES TO MITIGATE AND REPAIR LEAKS THROUGHOUT TOWN</u>
Before Superintendent Veracka's departmental update, Ms. Smith asked if the Board would approve the Consumer Confidence Report pending editorial changes, so that the report can be processed, sent to the printer and mailed to residents prior to July 1. Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the report subject to the editorial changes. Vice Chairman Erlandsen approved the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

Superintendent Veracka reported the crew continues to mitigate and repair leaks in the system. He said they've been very busy and prioritizing them by severity and risk to public safety. Superintendent Veracka said they've been working on 2-3 leaks a week.

<u>JUNE QUARTERLY BILLS ARE COMPLETED IN OFFICE AND THE FILE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE FOR PROCESSING</u>
Superintendent Veracka stated the meters have all been read and the June quarterly bills have been processed in the office and sent to the Collector's Office for further processing.

<u>SHUT OFF PROGRAM CONTINUES WITH FEW ACCOUNTS BEING SHUT OFF. CURRENTLY AT 86% COLLECTION RATE. "THE POINT" APARTMENTS IS THE LARGEST OUTSTANDING BALANCE DUE OF 13K.</u>
Superintendent Veracka stated Stacey and Laurie have done a fantastic job with the shut-off program. Currently, we are at an 86% collection rate. There is one extremely large delinquent account that we have been working with the account holder on. Chairman Loring stated the other option is to turn it off, and it'll get paid quicker.

Back to the leaks, Superintendent Veracka stated he has contacted some leak detection companies, and he is still working on the issue. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if leak detection was a constant maintenance program or an in and out service. Superintendent Veracka stated it is a town-wide service. Commissioner Kostka stated it would take about a month or so to sweep the town. Chairman Loring asked if we have funding for this.
Ms. Smith stated there remains unexpended funds in a special article, entitled Water Main System that she believes could be utilized.

Superintendent Veracka stated he is also working on obtaining roof repair quotes. He said with every rainstorm it becomes apparent a solution is required. He said he received two quotes. One was withdrawn and the other was more of a patch job. He's requested more quotes and hopes to receive more by the next meeting.

On a separate note, during the last lightning strike, the Smith's Lane Tank was hit, and the radio transmitter was damaged, which affected the SCADA system. It was repaired immediately.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

KELLEHER PROPERTY UPDATE - ANTICIPATED CLOSING DATE 6/30/24

Superintendent Veracka stated we've been working with Town Counsel to get the completed paperwork.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MBTA ZONING TASK FORCE UPDATE - R. LORING

Chairman Loring stated the MBTA Zoning Task Force will be having a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen on June 11th to present recommendations for Special Town Meeting in November.

DISCUSSION ON WELL SITE AND POSSIBLE FUNDING ARTICLE AT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING IN NOVEMBER (DATE TBD)

Chairman Loring stated we need to give enough time to own the Kelleher property, and then we can discuss a funding article.

VOTE TO APPROVE SINGLE SIGNATORY OF BILL SCHEDULES

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to retain Chairman Richard Loring as the sole signatory on the bills. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously,
(3-0-0).

**WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:**

NONE

**BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

NONE

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024 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 5:33pm.

**ZOOM INFORMATION**

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME
JOIN ZOOM MEETING
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89052013207?PWD=AWNZOWIYK01WCGZJR2VEBFJNDVLSQT09
MEETING ID: 890 5201 3207
PASSCODE: 444915
ONE TAP MOBILE
+16469313860,,89052013207#,,,,*444915# US
DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION
• +1 646 558 8656 US (NEW YORK)
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