



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JULY 2, 2024

3:30 PM – CALL TO ORDER

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

In attendance were Commissioner Kostka, Superintendent Chris Veracka, Evan Wile, Attorney Joseph Ferreira and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Attending via ZOOM were Vice Chairman Erlandsen, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and Jimmy Powell of Jones River.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 5/28/24 AND 6/11/24

Commissioner Kostka made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2024 and June 11, 2024. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

EVAN WILE, REGARDING PROPERTY DISCUSSION LOCATED ON BAKER AVE

Mr. Evan Wile stated there is property on Baker Avenue that he would like to acquire and develop into housing. He understands there is a moratorium on water but wants to know if he can install the water infrastructure, at his peril, and when the moratorium is over, then have the water turned on.

Chairman Loring stated that the decision is under the purview of the building department. He added, there is no guarantee of connecting any infrastructure to town water as a new well has to be developed online before any application for water service(s) can be submitted, Mr. Wile asked how far out that is expected to be. Commissioner Kostka stated, the Kingston Water Department just acquired land to develop a new well, and it will be approximately 3–5 years before a well is placed online.

Chairman Loring reiterated the water department will not guarantee service to anything installed during the moratorium. Mr. Wile stated there is an active permit on the property that was approved seven years ago.

Mr. Wile asked if he was grandfathered prior to the moratorium. Chairman Loring stated seven years may as well be a lifetime ago and that there is no guarantee the town will provide service.

Discussion continued.

Superintendent Veracka asked if Mr. Wile was the current property owner. Mr. Wile stated he would be. He added, once he gets all the approvals, he will acquire the property. He said he is an excavator and a builder, and he wants to stay busy in retirement.

Discussion continued.

Mr. Wile thanked the board for their time and left the meeting at approximately 4:39 pm.

ATTY JOSEPH FERRIERA, FERRIERA ASSOCIATES AND NAPOLI LAW RE: PFAS

Atty Joseph Ferreira thanked the board for their time. He said he is affiliated with Napoli Law Firm on a nationwide basis to provide community reimbursement through numerous PFAS settlements.

Commissioner Kostka asked what happens if we do not have any PFAS. Atty Ferreira stated he has pulled information from Mass DEP regarding Kingston's PFAS results, and he feels it would be beneficial for the board to consider filing a claim. Ms Smith stated those results are located in the packet; however, they do not match up with our test results. Atty Ferreira stated 3M just settled for 12.5 billion. Atty Ferreira went on to explain how the claim amounts are calculated based on flow rate and results.

Reviewing the results, the Winthrop St well is the only well that had PFAS results, but it has not been online in twenty years. Atty Ferreira stated there were other sites that had positive results. Superintendent Veracka stated he's looking at the test results, and we have no detects, so there is a discrepancy with the information Atty Ferreira presented.

Superintendent Veracka asked where these results were pulled from as our results for the same tests show no detect. He then presented the results to Atty Ferreira for his review. An associate of the law firm, Hank Norton, called in to the meeting to help explain the situation and stated if there are no detects, then there is no money available. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if MassDEP gets their data from any other source other than KWD. Superintendent Veracka said no, he thinks the confusion is with the minimum detect limit (MDL) versus the minimum reporting limit. Superintendent Veracka spent considerable time explaining how to read the test results. Discussion continued regarding the Winthrop Street Well and when it was closed and why. Atty Ferreira and Atty Norton explained the process for the class action suit representation and left materials for the board to review.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT - STATUS UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated she is awaiting approval from Mass DOT for the project to start working at 7am. Town Administrator Keith Hickey sent an email supporting that request. There will be no more work for the remainder of the week due to the holiday. Crews will be back out next Monday

Ms. Berger stated there was one issue that arose from one of the test pits, and that was a drain line that wasn't exactly where they thought it would be. The water main installation will begin next week (7/15). The flaggers and details seem to be working well. Matt Darsch has been out onsite all week to witness the test pits. Temporary paving has been occurring daily.

Chairman Loring stated the patches look good. Ms. Berger said Mass DOT stops by daily to inspect the paving. If they see something they don't like, it will be addressed immediately.

WMA GRANT STUDY - RATE AND WATER STORAGE STUDY UPDATE

The final grant study has been submitted, and the draft has been approved by Mass DEP. The fiscal reporting has all been submitted.

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON TOWN MEETING ARTICLE FOR WELL SITE ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Ms. Berger stated she would try and get some figures for the next meeting.

Chairman Loring stated solid numbers are required for this well development. He stated there has been more talk throughout town that this project needs to be expedited. Chairman Loring said it's important that we are thorough.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

LEAK DETECTION QUOTE UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated he received three quotes for leak detection covering 110 miles of pipe throughout town. New England Water Distribution Services was the low bidder at \$11,825. Superintendent Veracka stated he received positive references for the company.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve New England Water Distribution Services for leak detection quoted for \$11,825. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

4:10 pm Commissioner Kostka had to leave the meeting due to a prior commitment.

KELLEHER PROPERTY CLOSED AND WAS RECORDED AT THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS AS SCHEDULED ON JUNE 18, 2024

Superintendent Veracka stated the transfer of the Kelleher Property took place on June 18, 2024, and is officially under the town's ownership.

EMPLOYEE STATUS: WILLIAM DUGGAN'S LAST DAY WILL BE JULY 5, 2024

Superintendent Veracka stated water repairman William Duggan was scheduled to work his last day on July 5, 2024. However, Mr. Duggan chose to finish his employment yesterday at 2pm. Chairman Loring asked about the rehiring process. Superintendent Veracka stated the position would be posted both inside and outside the town. Internal candidates will be considered first, if any, and then outside candidates can be considered. The position is being posted as pump operator as the preference is to find a licensed individual.

NEW BUSINESS:

UPDATED WATER RESTRICTION IMPLEMENTED JUNE 21, 2024 DUE TO PUMPING LEVELS

Provided for informational purposes only. No discussion took place.

OCPC REGIONAL GROUP - SCORING ACTIVITY

No discussion or action taken.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

JULY 16, 2024 AT 3:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to adjourn. Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

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Respectfully submitted,

Stacey L. Smith

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk