



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
AUGUST 13, 2024

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

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

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

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 30, 2024

The minutes of July 30, 2024 were tabled until the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Berger stated the crews have been working on the north-side of the Jones River. They are approaching the tie in at Linden Street. Today, CC Construction hit an unmarked 2-inch gas line. The gas company had marked an abandoned line and CC Construction took great care in digging around that. However, they ended up hitting an active gas line that was not marked. Records of buried utility work has been less than optimum on this project.

Commissioner Kostka asked if our records are being updated as this project continues. Ms. Berger stated, yes Matt Darsch, as project inspector, is taking notes onsite. Commissioner Kostka imagines this will cost us money. Ms. Berger stated it's more lost time with the contractor. Commissioner Kostka asked if the gas company could be charged back. Ms. Berger responded yes, that's definitely worth pursuing. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked whether the gas company didn't know it was there or had they forgotten it was there. Discussion continued, and it was deemed the line was not marked correctly. Ms. Berger stated tomorrow they will pick up where they left off today and get to the end of the project this week. The part where they have to cross from Main St to Summer Street will take some juggling with traffic.

Commissioner Kostka asked if they were still on schedule. Ms. Berger stated they are tracking to start services on the south side of Main Street next week. They did have to flush and re-sample due to a background result.

At 4:07pm, resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting.

Ms. Berger anticipates by the last week of August, CC Construction will start services on the other end. She expects by September the project to be finished only slightly behind schedule with the recent "hiccups" and all the unknowns that have popped up.

Regarding the costs, Ms. Berger stated they are doing fine with the police details. There have been no certified flaggers since August 1st, and that's helpful in controlling the cost over run. Commissioner Kostka asked if she was confident they could continue with only the police details.

She stated yes, Kingston Police made adjustments to accommodate details and the detours are helping. Chairman Loring stated he says traffic has been manageable.

Ms. Berger referenced the finished paving discussion at the last meeting. She did speak with a Mass DOT inspector regarding the 72 hr milling/paving requirement. She said she was told it's reasonable to mill, cover trench repairs with 5 inches and pave overall with 2 inches. Ms. Berger will be speaking with the contractor and approach Mass DOT for a written plan. She said regarding the contingency, it looks better than when we last met. Commissioner Kostka thanked Ms. Berger for her recommendations and conservative approach as it proved to be necessary.

DISCUSSION FOR NEW WELL RFP

EDITORIAL NOTE: agenda incorrectly states RFP. It should say RFQ.

Ms. Berger stated she used the General Engineering template to write up the RFQ for the new well design. She drafted a scope of services related to design and permitting. Ms. Smith made copies for the Board's review.

Ms. Berger asked the Board to review the document and if all is good, it can be forwarded up to the Town Administrator. Discussion continued regarding the timing expected to advertise, receive applicants, interview etc... Commissioner Kostka stated we need to get the money at the special town meeting. That's the most important piece. Chairman Loring said given the time frame, he's unsure if a design firm can come up with a figure for construction in time for the special town meeting.

Ms. Berger stated, construction piece can always come later at the annual town meeting. The first thing that will need to be done is to repump the test wells, redo water quality testing and put together paperwork for the site examination by Mass DEP. This all needs to be done before a bigger diameter test well can be drilled. This can all probably be done by the spring annual town meeting. Once that's done, the Mass DEP Water Management Act permit process can begin and that can take up to a year. While that process is happening, the design of the pump station can be done.

TRACKLE POND WELL CLEANING

Ms. Berger forwarded an RFP for well cleaning at Trackle Pond. The document has been sent to the Town Administrator and Town Counsel for review. We received comments back this afternoon. The plan is to advertise by Sept 4 and receive bids by Sept 19th. The next board meeting is Sept 24th and so the Board could award the project at that time.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

REVIEW OF DISCUSSION AT ZBA MEETING 8/7/24 RE: WAPPING ROAD PROJECT (G. PRIOLO)

At 4:24pm, resident Pine DuBois entered the meeting.

Superintendent Veracka reviewed the project and the recent discussion at the ZBA meeting (August 7, 2024) which both he and Chairman Loring attended. He said there was much back and forth about the shared leeching system being proposed for the development. He added, the developer had some frustrations he voiced with the ZBA. Chairman Loring stated he feels in the future we need to be sure we are responding in writing to plan proposals. There was some insinuation that the water department didn't respond to requests for information from the ZBA. He felt the ZBA was not in tune with comments regarding the load of a shared leech field and the force pumped from each unit, upstream of a potential well site. In the future, the Board needs to respond timely and in writing. Superintendent Veracka stated the only plan that the water department saw was the original plan with individual septic systems and that was discussed at an in-house department meeting with the building inspector, town planner, superintendent for highway etc.. The revised set of plans were never presented to the water department for comment. Chairman Loring said he understands; however, once that meeting was held, it was the Board of Water Commissioners who should have created a statement. Superintendent Veracka stated we did provide a statement to the original plans referencing the moratorium. Chairman Loring stated he understands we responded with regard to not being able to provide water, but there was no information related to the water department owned property and potential well site that could be affected. He added, in the future, the Board needs documentation when presenting to the ZBA, Planning Board or other town boards.

Pine Dubois asked if she could share some information. The Board acknowledged her. Ms. Dubois stated the ZBA continued the meeting until August 16, at which time they would issue conditions for the permit. The builder is requesting an earth removal permit to dig within 4 feet of the water table. She would hope the Board of Water Commissioners would be opposed to that and would request digging no less than 10 feet from the water table.

Chairman Loring thanked her for that information and stated it's important we send a specific letter to the ZBA requesting that the exact measurements of the water table be determined and request that there be no digging within 10 feet of the water table.

GRASSY HOLE/I-86 DEHUMIDIFIER - DESERT AIRE WARRANTY UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated he is still working on resolution to the dehumidifier compressor at Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment plant. Desert Aire will be able to obtain a compressor much quicker than originally stated. Northstar Refrigeration will be able to facilitate the repair and work within the warranty of the part.

Ms. Smith said she had recently learned the WaterSmart invoice that was recently paid did not include school visits. She spoke with North and South Rivers Watershed about this, and they informed her that it did not include school visits because they hadn't been in the schools since pre-Covid.

Ms. Smith connected them again with the Kingston Intermediate School, and they will be going back to the education program this year with one program split between two visits. The total cost of this is \$1,000. Ms. Smith told them she would need approval from the Board before authorizing the expenditure as it was not budgeted. Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the additional expense of \$1,000 for the WaterSmart education program. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0). Ms. Smith thanked the Board and stated, this new figure will be budgeted in next year's budget to avoid this occurring in the future.

Chairman Loring asked for a motion regarding the memo to the ZBA regarding the Wapping Rd 40B project. Chairman Loring suggested a letter be sent to the ZBA stating that the builder needs to determine the water table and provide the Water Department with such information for review. Additionally, there is to be no excavation within 10 feet of the determined water table. Ms. DuBois suggested including the Board of Health as they approve the private wells. Chairman Loring directed Ms. Smith to copy the Board of Health on the memo. Commissioner Kostka made the motion to send the memo as described above. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

AUGUST 27, 2024 AT 3:30PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk