



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 24, 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 Christopher Veracka and Kristen Berger of Resilient CE.

Clerk Stacey Smith was not present at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

TABLE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 UNTIL OCTOBER 8, 2024

The minutes of September 10, 2024 are tabled until October 8, 2024.

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

RFQ UPDATE -TRACKLE POND WELL CLEANING

Ms. Berger stated she has evaluated the bids for the Trackle Pond Well Cleaning project. Two bids have been received. The low bid was from Maher Services at \$54,854. This is to clean the well and provide pump replacement if necessary. She stated there was a big difference between Maher and Weston Sampson. She said the difference was primarily regarding the pump item. She contacted Weston Sampson when she noticed the quote from the supplier seemed quite high. They told her they were in a rush to get the bid in, and they just went with the number given to them by the supplier. Maher went to another supplier. Ms. Berger stated Weston Sampson is higher typically for the well cleaning due to the staffing requirements they have. She received assurance from Maher that they were confident in their numbers and stood behind their bid.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to award the bid for the Trackle Pond Well Cleaning and Pump Replacement to Maher Services, Inc. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0). Ms. Berger presented the Notice of Award to be signed by the Board and the Town Administrator.

Ms. Berger stated, included in the bid, is the work for the pump column, shaft and fabricated discharge head in case it needs to be replaced. The issue is the fabricated discharge head is custom work and has a lead time of 8–12 weeks. Maher believes the discharge head will be fine based on it's age; However, the Board should think about either going forward with the custom work to have on hand for the future or taking credit back for the work if it's not done. She said it doesn't need to be decided now as it can be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. Berger stated the concern is the discharge head can corrode and get rusty and this one is 10 years old. Chairman Loring asked if we should just move ahead, and have a new discharge head on the ready, if needed, or to be stored for future use. Commissioner Kostka stated the thinking is we may eventually need it. Superintendent Veracka stated he would like to minimize downtime of the well. Discussion continued about how to proceed. The consensus is to continue with the fabrication of a new discharge head.

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Berger said the project has been on a short hiatus as we have been waiting for acceptable bacteria testing results

on the north side of the river. We have received actual lab results and can now proceed with tying in the services to the new water main.

She stated there have been concerns about some significant dips in the road, specifically at Center Hill Road and Riverside Drive. She believes the rain helped with the settling of the road. Mass DOT reached out and instructed that the contractor must address these areas of concern before any further work can be done. The contractor will be out there tomorrow to level everything out. Once that is done, they have one more service to connect on the south side of the river, and they need to remove two chlorination taps. On the north side of the river, the contractor will start Thursday into the following week. The intention is to complete all the digging within the next two weeks. Commissioner Kostka added, hopefully there won't be anything unknown in the area. Ms. Berger said, we are over the worst of it. She added, her concern is the temporary pavement is not ideal as it is now. Going into the winter, more washouts, freezing, etc.. will occur. She said it's possible the contractor will need to do the 7-inch temporary trench repair and then do the 2-inch mill and pave in the spring. The other option is to have the contractor clean it up as well as possible. Chairman Loring stated we need to do a cost comparison on both options. He added, it may cost us more now, but from a public relations standpoint, it may be beneficial over the winter for the residents.

Resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting at 4:13pm.

Discussion continued regarding possible issues over the winter with the current temporary paving specific to ice and freezing pockets and plows picking up pieces of the asphalt and breaking it up. Vice Chairmn Erlandsen asked if the contingency could absorb the cost of the 7-inch temporary trench repair. Ms. Berger responded, the contingency can handle the expense, and we are past the worst of it with this project.

RFP UPDATE - NEW WELL

Ms. Berger stated the RFP for design and engineering of this project is advertised as of this week. It is already advertised on CommBuys and will go on the Central Registry tomorrow. She contacted a few potential companies to make them aware of the project and bid. She stated this is a great project as there aren't many source projects like this on the market. Commissioner Kostka stated Kingston Water received many bids on the last well project, and he expects the same for this project.

Aside from this project, Ms. Berger stated she was out today with Superintendent Veracka at 70 Summer Street performing a flow test. She said there were no surprises or issues. The flow is good.

UAW (UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER) COMPLIANCE PLAN; AUDIT TO FOLLOW

Ms. Berger stated MassDEP has not posted the grant yet. She will continue to keep watching for the grant.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

ROOF UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated the roof replacement on the water department building is now completed. The contractor finished today. They found no surprises on the job and the contractor was great to work with. Superintendent Veracka stated the contractor straightened the gutter around the cupola at no additional cost. Commissioner Kostka asked who the contractor was. Superintendent Veracka stated it was Scott Sirois Roofing/Carpentry out of Duxbury. He added that during the recent rainstorm the building stayed dry! Commissioner Kostka asked about the roof at Soules Pond. Superintendent Veracka stated they'd been getting ready by clearing trees. He added, we will be setting up staging next week. The project is well underway. Discussion continued regarding the condition of the road going into Soules Pond.

Chairman Loring asked if the flat roof on the water department building and the lack of gutters and how the rain runoff runs down the walls was addressed by the roofing contractor. Superintendent Veracka stated he did bring it to the attention of the roofer. He said he would come back next week with a solution to address it at no additional charge.

WATER REPAIRMAN POSITION UPDATE (IF ANY)

The position of pump operator was downgraded to water repairman and posted this week. Superintendent Veracka is

hoping this will attract some good candidates.

Commissioner Kostka asked if there were any "in house" candidates, perhaps over at the highway department.

Superintendent Veracka stated he was unaware of any interest from over there, but there could be.

NEW BUSINESS:

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TIMELINE - DRAFT ARTICLE FOR DESIGN/ENGINEERING OF NEW WELL NEEDED BEFORE 10/8/24

Chairman Loring stated we will need to provide draft language for the new well and pump station specific to design and engineering for the fall special town meeting. He also suggested a timeframe from design and engineering to construction, with costs would be helpful.

Discussion continued regarding the date and time of the special town meeting.

**AMENDED- ADDED ITEM - ABATEMENT REQUEST FROM RESIDENT AT 22 PEMBROKE ST - SEPT BILL

Chairman Loring stated there is a request for abatement from resident Roger Silva at 22 Pembroke Street. Vice Chairman Erlandsen said apparently the two-year-old grandson left the hose running outside. He made the motion to charge the total gallons used at the lowest tiered rate. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

Vice Chairman Erlandsen gave an update from the OCPC Regional meeting he attended earlier today. He said they reviewed sources of water, discussion on communities in need of joining MWRA and discussed desalination solutions. Another area of discussion regarding water loss revolved around water billing and reviewing efficiencies. He stated these are questions for Ms. Smith when she returns. He said there are three more meetings left, and he would be unable to attend due to his teaching schedule. He offered the opportunity to attend future meetings to both Board members. Vice Chairman Erlandsen said the majority of the presentation is simply presenting ideas to communities in need of solutions and Kingston doesn't have the same concerns as other communities. Chairman Loring thanked Vice Chairman Erlandsen for his attendance at these meetings. Vice Chairman Erlandsen said many communities did not participate and OCPC is very happy with Kingston's participation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 TO C. HARLOW RE: REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT FOR 2 SUNSET RD

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

OCTOBER 8, 2024 AT 4:00PM

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 4:30pm.

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

These meeting minutes were transcribed on 10/17/24 directly from the meeting recording.