



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JANUARY 28, 2025

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 R. Kostka, Superintendent Christopher Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Attending via Zoom was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and Kirsten Ryan of Kleinfelder.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2025

Commissioner Robert R. Kostka made the motion to vote the meeting minutes of January 14, 2025 as amended. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion; and, it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE

Ms. Berger stated at the last meeting Old Colony Planning Council had offered to apply for the Drought Resiliency and Water Efficiency Grant Program on behalf of the Kingston Water Department. She added, we were notified by OCPC that they would be unable to help.

Ms. Berger stated between yesterday and today, she worked on the grant application with a focus on leak detection. She communicated with Consulting Engineers Inc, which was a company that had presented a proposal for the leak detection in 2024 to see if this grant was awarded if the time would allow the work to be done. She proposes we refer to this as Phase 1, due to the tight timeframe, it would focus on only accessible sites such as hydrants, hydrant valves and main line valves. Most water curb stops are below grade, would require digging to expose and listen on those and would be more time consuming.

Ms. Berger proposed this will give us more time to discuss and explore more options in the future. The grant application must be received by January 31, 2025 by 5pm via email .

Chairman Loring stated this sounds like you have the bases covered. He stated he was disappointed that Old Colony Planning Council was unable to follow through. Ms. Berger stated she received assurance from Consulting Engineering Inc. that the work could be completed within the timeframe.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if this work would be verifying the earlier leak detection work that was completed. Ms. Berger said it would be similar to the work done last year and would verify work that was done. Discussion continued regarding leak detection. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked about the unaccounted for water and where we stand with that and what comes next. Superintendent Veracka stated the 2024 numbers will be accounted for when work on the Annual Statistical Report starts in a few months and we will have a better idea where we stand with those numbers. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if we expect the 20% to decrease. Superintendent Veracka stated yes, he does.

UPDATE ON DISCUSSION WITH KLEINFELDER RE: SCOPE AND COST OF WELL DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

Ms. Berger stated she has been in discussion with Kleinfelder. She stated Kirsten Ryan of Kleinfelder is on the call. They have worked together and reviewed the original scope. Ms. Berger said they believe they can reduce the number of monitoring wells from four to two, provided Mass DEP has no issue. Additionally, they reduced the number of hours on the pump house design. These two revisions have reduced their original proposal from \$951,928 to \$825,408.

Chairman Loring asked if she was comfortable with the discussions had with Kleinfelder. Ms. Berger stated, yes she is.

Ms. Berger stated Kleinfelder also had some redlines they wanted to propose in the standard terms and conditions to be reviewed by Town Counsel.

Kirsten Ryan, principal with Kleinfelder, asked if the markup should go to Kristen or to the water department. Chairman Loring responded that the documents can be sent to Kristen as the OPM. She can then forward to the water department to be sent to Town Counsel.

Ms. Berger stated her Task Order for OPM combined with the Kleinfelder Fee proposal will be the total required for the design and engineering of the new well project and will be what is needed for the Finance Director.

Ms. Berger had one thing to mention regarding the Trackle Pond Well Cleaning and that is the fabricated discharge head arrived at Maher Services and they will be coordinating with Superintendent Veracka on delivery to the site. Superintendent Veracka stated he spoke with Maher today and they will be out either Thursday or Friday.

Kirsten Ryan, of Kleinfelder, thanked the Board for choosing her firm and stated she and her team were very excited to work on this project. Chairman Loring stated the Board was very impressed with Kleinfelder's presentation and looking forward to working with them. She signed off the meeting at 4:17pm.

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated the 2-inch mill and overlay work is tentatively scheduled for April school vacation week. Ms. Berger has notified CC Construction of the dates so that they can put it on their calendar. She notified Mass DOT and they stated the current permit referenced night work. An amendment will need to be filed to do the day work. Ms. Berger stated she will draft language that states the work is to be done during the day over April school vacation week and if not that week work will continue at night. That will need to be signed by the Town Administrator for submission to Mass DOT. Ms. Berger will also confirm with CC Construction that they have communicated with the paving contractor, Lawrence Lynch, as well.

Ms. Berger would like to hold a logistical meeting in February over ZOOM with all the shareholders to be on the same page and an in-person on-site meeting in April prior to the work.

Superintendent Veracka stated he spoke with both the town administrator and police chief regarding the school vacation week. One thing the police chief said was if the work was not done over school vacation week it would need to be done at night.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked about rain or weather concerns. Chairman Loring stated the state will not allow paving during a heavy rain but the temperature for cooling the asphalt is what's most important. Ms. Berger stated the temperatures for asphalt to cool are important before traffic can be allowed over it. Her biggest concerns is the area of the ramp intersection and that's why her pre-meeting is necessary to come up with a good plan. Chairman Loring stated we want to avoid Mass DOT having to shut down the ramp. Superintendent Veracka suggested if they start paving from the bottom of the hill and work up, we may be able to utilize a hydrant at the top for cooling the asphalt. Ms. Berger stated that's worth asking at our meeting.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

KWD CREW HAVE BEEN BUSY WORKING ON MAINTENANCE OF ALL PUMP STATIONS AND WELLS, PAINTING HYDRANT MARKERS AND RESPONDING TO SERVICE CALLS. WITH THE RECENT SNOW EVENT LAST SUNDAY INTO MONDAY, THEY WORKED CLEARING OUR SITES AS WELL AS WORKING WITH THE STREET, TREES AND PARKS PLOWING FOR THE TOWN.

Superintendent Veracka spoke about the cooperation between our department and Streets Trees and Parks Department. With the recent snow event last week, water department employees helped clear roads of snow with the Streets Trees and Parks Department.

Yesterday, there was a main leak on Pottle Street and the Streets, Trees and Parks Department responded with staff and equipment. Superintendent Veracka stated another leak today in MacFarlane Farms resulted in streets trees and parks

loaning our department the use of their vector truck.

Superintendent Veracka stated the relationship between both departments is strong and cooperative.

BUDGET DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 22ND

Superintendent Veracka stated the Finance Committee approved the water department budget last week. He will be attending the Capital Planning meeting Wednesday to discuss the truck purchase and water tank article.

OVERNIGHT TELEMETRY FAILURE - TROUBLE SHOOTING AND REPAIRING ALL DAY THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2025

Superintendent Veracka told the Board about the telemetry failure that shut down all department communications across our sites. The antennae on the Elm St Water Tank had failed. The guys did a great job running around and manually running operations until the repair could be made. The repair was made by replacing the antennae with a spare we had on hand. Discussion continued as to what caused the failure and obtaining another spare antennae for the future.

On another note, a late afternoon report of a leak on Main Street by Crayon College (23 Main St) was reported today and the crew will be out there tomorrow to plan the repair.

Resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting at 4:27 pm

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if the Smith's Lane tank had been tagged by graffiti again. Superintendent Veracka stated yes, graffiti increased in frequency since the apartments at the mall were constructed and he would like to install barbwire. Chairman Loring stated he was concerned of the risk of injury to anyone trying to enter the property over the fence for paint on the water tank and suggested perhaps looking into increasing the size of the fence to 8-ft. Discussion continued regarding solutions involving new and higher fencing with barbwire. Smith's Lane Tank is the only water tank not protected with barbwire. Superintendent Veracka stated he's not as concerned of the graffiti as he is the damage done to the communications by vandals climbing the tank. Commissioner Kostka said he agreed with Chairman Loring regarding the 8-ft fence option.

Superintendent Veracka stated a new meter for the former Baymont Hotel has arrived and we will be scheduling that work as the water will need to be shut off.

Lastly, quarterly meter reads will be read next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

LETTER FROM MWWA TO EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES RE: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED REGULATION 760 CMR 71.00 - PROTECTED USE ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS

Ms. Smith brought the Board's attention to a recent letter from MWWA to the State regarding the Accessory Dwelling Units and their recommendations and clarification on the proposed law.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if a property owner wanted to install an ADU, would we require them to install a new service. Superintendent Veracka stated the ADU would be supplied by the existing plumbing in the existing structure. He added, per the Rules & Regulations, there is only one service allowed per lot. Discussion continued regarding this new law and obtaining a clear understanding of it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WINGATE PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL PERMIT ZBA CASE 1197, VOTED AUGUST 15, 2007

Ms. Smith stated she spent much of last week researching meeting minutes regarding this Wingate proposal back in 2007. She stated she was saddened in the lack of detail and back up material she was able to locate.

She provided a brief timeline of events based on the minutes. Unfortunately, she was unable to find any information from Mark Devine of Coler & Colantonio and was only able to find mere references to the issue and nothing substantial in evidence showing the Board of Water Commissioners full approval of the project.

Commissioner Kostka suggested we ask Wingate to provide us with any information or approvals that this Board may

have granted; otherwise this project is subject to the moratorium. Superintendent Veracka stated he looked out back for a plan that was approved, typically an approved plan would be in our files. Discussion continued regarding the permits Wingate is referring to. Chairman Loring stated with all the ambiguities of this case, he sees no way of going forward with Wingate on their proposal. Ms. Smith's objective was to provide any evidence to Town Counsel for review but based on what she was able to research, there's nothing for Town Counsel to review.

Ms. Smith added, there was no water service purchased for this property. When the moratorium was made implemented, we honored all the water service applications that had been purchased prior to the moratorium. Ms. Smith said without a water service application on file, this project is subject to the moratorium based on how this Board has handled every other applicant. Ms. Smith asked how the Board wants to proceed with Atty D'Ambruoso. Chairman Loring recommended notifying his office that we were unable to locate formal approved plans by the Board of Water Commissioners and absent that information the proposal is subject to the moratorium. Superintendent Veracka further added, any proposed tap off an existing main is still an extension of a water main which is subject to the moratorium.

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

LETTER DATED JANUARY 15, 2025 TO AMY BELMORE, EXEC. DIRECTOR OF HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RE: 273 PEMBROKE ST

Information only - no discussion took place.

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 (TIME TO BE DETERMINED)

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 4:39 pm.

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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052013207?pwd=AWNZOWIYK01WCGZJR2VEBFJNDVLSQT09)

MEETING ID: 890 5201 3207

PASSCODE: 444915

+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](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdwsddjybd)

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk

