



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
FEBRUARY 11, 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, Superintendent Chris Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Attending via ZOOM was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE.

Commissioner Robert Kostka was unable to attend.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2025

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to accept the minutes of January 28, 2025. Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT - UPDATE ON PAVING STATUS

Ms. Berger told the Board she held a meeting on February 10, 2025 via ZOOM with public safety, town administrator, MassDOT representative, the contractor and Superintendent Veracka. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the final paving to be done over April school vacation week.

She drafted language for Town Administrator Keith Hickey to request the hours that we will be looking to work. That request was returned yesterday and uploaded to the MassDOT online permitting process. She continued, we will wait for the approval of the overlay work during the April school vacation week during the day and a small list of punchlist items after the paving is complete. She stated all parties who met are on board with the plan. However, if any unforeseen circumstances prevent the day work, it is understood the work will have to be done at night.

Ms. Berger stated Sean from MassDOT recommended the southbound exit ramp closure for a few hours to allow time for the pavement to cool. She stated signage would need to be placed on Route 3 to notify motorists of the detour and a state police officer detail would be required as well. She continued, she will fully draft a traffic management plan this week and submit. She stated there will be a meeting onsite in April to review the paving plan with all so everyone knows and understands what the limits of the paving will be.

Chairman Loring stated hopefully the state will approve the shutdown of the off-ramp. His only concern is whether the ramp is closed during the morning rush.

Superintendent Veracka asked if they would mill and pave the same day. Ms. Berger stated that hasn't been discussed yet. Discussion continued regarding milling in the morning and leaving the ramp open and closing it later after the morning rush.

NEW WELL DESIGN CONTRACT STATUS UPDATE WITH KLEINFELDER (IF ANY)

Ms. Berger stated the scope and fee agreement for Kleinfelder is still under review with town counsel. Chairman Loring asked Ms. Smith and Ms. Berger how long this usually takes. Ms. Smith stated the document was sent to town counsel prior to her vacation last week. Ms. Berger added, there weren't a ton of comments and proposed changes. Chairman

Loring stated it's important this project keeps moving. Ms. Smith added, it's imperative this gets reviewed so we can move on with the funding process and acquiring the loan for this project.

TRACKLE POND WELL CLEANING - PROJECT COMPLETION

Ms. Berger stated this project is completely finished. Maher delivered the fabricated discharge head and the final bill has been submitted.

DROUGHT RESILIENCY AND WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT - APPLICATION SUBMITTED

Ms. Berger stated the program announced notice of award to recipients could be granted as early as the end of the month.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

AT & T SITE VISIT ON PEMBROKE ST TANK FOR GENERATOR SPACE

Superintendent Veracka stated he met with an AT&T representative at the Pembroke Street Tank to discuss a generator at the location. He stated AT&T needs to maintain a distance between the propane tanks and generators for safety reasons. They are drawing up a proposal for review and approval.

QUARTERLY METER READINGS STARTED 1/31/25

Superintendent Veracka stated the quarterly reads have been obtained, and office staff is actively working the March bill run.

RECENT LEAKS HAVE BEEN REPAIRED - BUSY FEW WEEKS FOR THE CREW

Superintendent Veracka stated a 6-in water main failed on Pottle Street. He stated that was a long, cold repair that went into the night. The following day, a leak in MacFarlane Farms and another on Main Street popped up. It's been a busy week for the crew.

NEW BUSINESS:

AMENDED PLANNING BOARD - BRIARWOOD CONSTRUCTION MAP 51, LOT 53-1 THROUGH 53-24, ADDITIONAL LOT REQUEST

COMMENTS DUE FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Superintendent Veracka presented a proposal from Briarwood Construction regarding the Charles Drive development. He stated comments to the Planning Board are requested by February 19, 2025. The developer would like to squeeze some lots to create an additional lot. He added, it is his belief that a newly created lot would be subject to the moratorium. Superintendent Veracka showed the map of the development to the Board and discussion ensued regarding the lots to be reworked. Vice Chairman Erlandsen agreed with Superintendent Veracka. Chairman Loring stated while what is being proposed doesn't make a big difference to the current project, it does, however, set the tone for what the moratorium intends, which is to prevent any new connections or services. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion that the proposed additional lot will be subject to the moratorium. Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

AMENDED #2 FCC RADIO LICENSE CONFLICT WITH EVERSOURCE ELECTRICITY

Superintendent Veracka stated the water department received a notice from the legal counsel of Eversource that our FCC license and radio frequency had been issued to Eversource, and we had to get a new FCC license and radio frequency. Superintendent Veracka stated he reached our license rep who had appealed to the FCC to obtain a clearer understanding of the situation and was still awaiting a response. According to our license rep, this not only affected Kingston but there were over 90 communities affected. Since that original notification, we have received a subsequent notification from Eversource legal counsel stating they have started using our radio frequency and have experienced interference and have threatened fines if we do not obtain our own frequency. Superintendent Veracka stated our rep stated the remedy is to get everything reprogrammed with a new bandwidth and acquire a new FCC license, but it comes with a cost. Superintendent Veracka stated he was waiting for a full quote on the work. Chairman Loring suggested a letter from our town counsel be sent to Eversource legal counsel telling them any change needs to be at their expense. Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated he agreed. Discussion continued on how this happened and why the FCC

didn't notify us.

***AMENDED #3* ABATEMENT REQUEST RE: J. STRACHAN, 29 ARBOR HILLS DR, DUE TO TOILET LEAK THAT HAS SINCE BEEN REPAIRED.**

Ms. Smith presented the abatement request from the resident at 29 Arbor Hills. The toilet repair was made in January so it will affect the March bill. The resident is asking for relief on that bill. Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to charge the total gallons at the lowest rate (\$4.00 per thousand). Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

Superintendent Veracka stated the next topic is for review only as it will be placed on the next meeting agenda, but it was brought to the water department's attention today. Rountree Hyundai in Plymouth is requesting the monitoring wells quarterly testing be reduced. There are 4 total monitoring wells, 3 in Plymouth and one downgrade of our well site. The property owner reached out asking if the testing can be reduced due to the exorbitant expense of the tests. The owners went to the Town of Plymouth, and they sent them to Kingston. Superintendent Veracka stated he was not superintendent at the time this went through and wasn't familiar with the specifics of the decision. However, the decision to test quarterly came from the Plymouth Zoning Board of Appeals. Superintendent Veracka asked Ms. Berger if she had any recollection or knowledge of this perhaps through Mike Ohl at Comprehensive Environmental. She stated she did not. Discussion continued. Ms. Smith referred the Board to the Plymouth ZBA decision which lists the testing required, and it references the Plymouth bylaw. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked why would we want less testing? He asked Ms. Berger for her insight regarding quarterly testing.

Ms. Berger stated this is standard to remediation sites such as landfills. Ms. Smith asked Ms. Berger if it could be because it's a car dealership. Ms. Berger said, it could be.

Chairman Loring stated he would prefer a full round of testing and then make a decision. Vice Chairman Erlandsen agreed. Superintendent Veracka stated the dealership is on a virgin soil site which was previously all woods. Chairman Loring suggested communicating with Plymouth and Mr. Rountree and tell them we do not want to discuss any reductions in testing until a full year of testing has been completed. Ms. Berger stated it would help if she could get a full schedule of the testing to review. Ms. Smith stated she will forward the Plymouth ZBA decision over to her that lists the testing requirements.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AT 4PM

The next meeting will be February 25, 2025 at 4pm.

Discussion took place regarding the month of March. Vice Chairman Erlandsen has a conflict on Tuesdays. Discussion took place in the room, and it was decided to move the March meetings to the second and fourth Mondays at 4pm. The March meetings will take place on March 10th and March 24th.

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).

The meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

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

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith, Clerk