



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
MARCH 24, 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.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025 AND MARCH 10, 2025

A vote on the minutes were postponed until Commissioner Kostka arrived at the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

MAIN STREET FINAL PAVING

UPDATE ON ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MARCH 24, 2025 WITH PUBLIC SAFETY, CONTRACTORS AND MASS DOT

Ms. Berger stated a teams meeting was held this morning with the contractor, fire chief, superintendent, police chief and Mass DOT representative. A discussion was had about the upcoming work. Mass DOT approved the April school vacation week with extended hours of Monday-Friday 7am-5pm and allowing the work to be done on Patriots' Day. Sean Stockman from Mass DEP will confirm that work will be allowed over the holiday. Ms. Berger stated we are trying to keep the option open to work on Patriots' Day in case inclement weather is forecast later in the week. She stated Superintendent Veracka will coordinate with the department foreman for the Monday holiday work.

Chairman Loring stated the holiday work is important as it should dramatically decrease the amount of typical workweek traffic. Ms. Berger stated we are still waiting for the second permit amendment regarding the southbound ramp closure for a couple of hours to facilitate paving. If they don't allow the ramp closure, there will be a cold joint in the pavement. Closure of the ramp will prevent that and allow a smoother product. However, if approved, it will require some coordination with the State Police as a detail will be required. Vice Commissioner Erlandsen asked if signage would be available. Ms. Berger stated, yes, and they would divert traffic to the mall exit to turn around. She went on to say another meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 8th at 1pm. There will be an in-person onsite meeting to walk the site to ensure everyone is on the same page. Ms. Berger stated the contractor and paving contractor are confirmed to do the work during the week of April vacation. She stated she would walk the area tomorrow with Superintendent Veracka to prepare for the meeting on April 8th to determine limits and verify quantities.

KLEINFELDER UPDATE REGARDING NEW WELL PROJECT

KICK-OFF MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM WITH OPM, SUPERINTENDENT AND KLEINFELDER REPRESENTATIVES ON 3/17/25

Ms. Berger stated the new well kick-off meeting occurred last Monday. She stated herself, Kleinfelder and Superintendent Veracka reviewed the schedule and focused on the critical path parts of work to be done according to the schedule. Kleinfelder is currently working with a surveyor.

Superintendent Veracka stated the town accountant has the contract. She wants to review with town counsel.

Chairman Loring asked if the town accountant is aware that town counsel had already reviewed the contract.

Superintendent Veracka stated he did advise her of that. Chairman Loring stated it's important she realizes the longer that it takes, the longer it will be before a well is turned on. Superintendent Veracka shared that sentiment.

ONE STOP GRANT DRAFT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Ms. Berger stated the draft letter of interest for the One-Stop Grant Program encompasses several grant opportunities and is due this Wednesday. The grant is focused on development such as affordable housing and job creation that could occur with the development of a new well. She stated the letter of interest may not exceed 500 characters expressing interest.

Ms. Berger stated a contact person needs to be determined. This will be the contact person for the grant application. Chairman Loring suggested keeping the contact person in house and suggested Superintendent Veracka be that individual. He also suggested Superintendent Veracka reach out to Val Massard, the Town Planner, in the meantime to discuss this grant application.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked how long before the full application is submitted. Ms. Berger stated probably 2-3 months. She stated we will need a full project/developer partner to back up the application. That's why working with the Town Planner is so important.

Ms. Berger stated she saw on the [Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) website the drought resiliency grants were awarded. Kingston was not chosen. She stated that's all she had for this evening's meeting.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

SOUTH ST GENERATOR REPAIR NEEDED. THE GENERATOR IS CURRENTLY OFFLINE.

Superintendent Veracka stated the South Street generator is down and out of service. During annual maintenance it was discovered that it needed some critical parts and South Shore Generator placed it out of service. Superintendent Verackas stated he will be working to get that resolved.

THE MARCH BILLS WENT OUT A COUPLE OF DAYS LATE DUE TO THE EXTRA TIME NEEDED TO INCLUDE AN INSERT EXPLAINING THE RATE CHANGE. AS SUCH, THE BILLS WERE ADJUSTED WITH A NEW DUE DATE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE INSERT NEVER GOT INTO THE BILLS DUE TO A MISCOMMUNICATION AT THE PRINTERS. THE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE IS DEALING WITH THE THIRD PARTY VENDOR ON THIS MATTER.

No further discussion.

SHUT OFF PROGRAM HAS STARTED. FIRST SCHEDULED SHUT OFF DATE IS THURSDAY MARCH 27, 2025. SO FAR, A TOTAL OF FOUR GROUPS HAVE BEEN STARTED WITH SHUT OFF DATES THROUGH APRIL 10, 2025.

No further discussion.

ASR REPORT IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING COMPLETED AND IS DUE FOR SUBMISSION TO MASSDEP THIS WEEK.

No further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

ABATEMENT REQUEST - 41 SUMMER ST DUE TO FROZEN, BROKEN WATER LINES

Ms. Smith presented additional information regarding the abatement request for 41 Summer St, presented at the previous meeting. The property owner has now submitted plumbing bills. Discussion continued. Chairman Loring stated his concern is that it was such a large amount of water, he has difficulty believing it had no other impact on any other resident. Ms. Smith confirmed it was 332,000 gallons of usage. Commissioner Erlandsen stated he sympathizes with the property owner; however, how did this much water go undetected or seen for so long a period?

No motion was made.

Chairman Loring suggested tabling the minutes of March 10, 2025, as he was not present at the meeting to vote on the minutes.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made the motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2025, as he was present for that meeting. Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (2-0-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025 AT 4PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Elmes
Clerk