



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

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

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

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

Attending via Zoom were Town Administrator Keith Hickey and resident Mark Guidoboni.

Superintendent Chris Veracka was not in attendance as he was out of town.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2025, MARCH 24, 2025 AND APRIL 8, 2025

The minutes of March 10, 2025 were erroneously added to the agenda.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2025. Chairman Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted (2-0-1).

Commissioner Kostka abstained from the vote as was not been present at that meeting.

Chairman Loring made the motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2025. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT -FINAL PAVING UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated the 2-inch mill and pave has begun on Main Street. She stated a meeting was held April 8th with all parties. Afterward, she provided the meeting notes and a map of the area with clear markups, so everyone was on the same page and understood the expectations that needed to be met.

Another meeting was held last week to check in and confirm the details of the project. She said the milling started yesterday and continues today. They will be raising any structures and paving will start on Thursday. She added, they will be using the traffic management plan approved by Mass DOT. She stated there was a slight delay yesterday due to a miscommunication with a detail officer; however, that was resolved quickly, and the detours were allowed to resume. Ms. Berger stated the ramp closure will begin Thursday morning.

Ms. Berger detailed that the asphalt of the apron on Landing Rd was discovered, during the milling, to not be thick enough with existing pavement. The permit issued by Mass DOT states that anything that is discovered during this project, the town is responsible for addressing. This 50-foot by 7-inch area has a cost estimate of \$4,000. Ms. Berger stated there appears to be enough contingency to cover this.

Another issue that was discovered was a drain structure had been paved over. The town is responsible for replacing the new frame and cover. She stated the Streets, Trees, Parks (STP) Department stated they had a spare frame and cover. This will be an in-house repair between STP and Water as CC Construction had quoted another 6-10K to do the work. Chairman Loring stated that made sense due to the budget and that it will be a better end result. Ms. Berger stated there is still a punchlist to be completed after this mill and pave work.

Commissioner Kostka asked if this mill and pave work is expected to be finished by the end of the week. Ms. Berger replied, yes, and she added that Interim Superintendent of STP, Shawn Turner, has been extremely helpful and has offered his department's services this week.

Ms. Berger stated that Mass DOT had required that Lawrence Lynch, the paving contractor, zero out the transition points from milling to the pavement. They apparently did not do that and were called out today by Mass DOT after a complaint was filed yesterday with the State.

NEW WELL PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated Kleinfelder will be doing a pump test in the next week or two. The surveyor is ready to go and has a tentative start date of Friday, April 25, 2025. Kleinfelder will then start developing a framework for the site work and pump test proposal for Mass DEP.

She stated bi-weekly update meetings with Kleinfelder are scheduled.

Tracking for the One-Stop Community Growth Grant is May 5-June 4. Ms. Berger discussed in the last meeting that in order to have a viable application, a development partner would have to be identified. Prior to May 5th, the grant program will offer a Q & A period. Ms. Smith asked, wasn't it discussed at the last meeting that KWD would miss out on the period? Ms. Berger stated that since the projected design isn't at 25% completion that it didn't make as much sense to apply this time around and probably wouldn't be as successful. Discussion continued regarding the work to be done around the well site.

MORATORIUM DISCUSSION UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated she met last week with Vice Chairman Erlandsen and Superintendent Chris Veracka. She reviewed the Q & A compiled to answer any questions and misconceptions regarding the moratorium. Discussion continued regarding the unaccounted for water (UAW) and whether that had anything to do with the moratorium. Conversation continued regarding service leaks and detection methods. Ms. Smith suggested meters and whether the age of them and the old telephone read meters that have been estimated for years could lend to the UAW, as the estimates may not be accurate. Commissioner Kostka stated he's always understood that aging meters typically under report not over report and if this was the case, this could certainly add to the UAW totals. He added if we do not see a significant decrease in the UAW, we will have to come up with a plan. Chairman Loring suggested, regarding the bleeders, that we try to eliminate dead ends, connect those loops and eliminate the bleeders. Ms. Berger suggested planning for FY27 and setting aside funding to address solutions for the UAW search.

Discussion took place regarding various towns' and the potential for water interconnections. Ms. Berger reviewed neighboring towns and the different situations in each town. Chairman Loring stated that Plymouth treats their water substantially differently from Kingston. He added, Kingston currently has no PFAS, and he wouldn't want to interconnect and bring anything we currently do not have into our system from another town. Ms. Berger stated she discussed these options in a meeting with a sewer commission representative. Chairman Loring suggested this Q&A document be posted on the website and copies sent to Town Administrator Keith Hickey, the Board of Selectmen and Town Planner Valerie Massard.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT FOR 2024

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the 2024 Consumer Confidence Report as presented at the last meeting. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously (3-0-0).

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

SHUT OFF PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Smith stated we are at 71% collection rate to date, including the new group of letters that were mailed today.

MASS DEP SANITARY SURVEY UPDATE - MASS DEP WAS ONSITE TUES APRIL 15, 2025. NO VIOLATIONS WERE FOUND.

Superintendent Veracka implemented the recommendations made during the sanitary survey immediately. Ms. Smith stated there were no violations found and a completed report will follow.

QUARTERLY READS FOR THE JUNE BILLS WILL BE DONE NEXT WEEK BEGINNING ON APRIL 30TH

No discussion.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IS SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT KIS BEGINNING AT 9AM. ALL TOWN EMPLOYEES WHO LIVE IN KINGSTON ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

No discussion.

SITE VISIT WITH KLEINFELDER WAS HELD ON APRIL 9. SURVEY WORK WILL BE ONGOING.

No discussion.

VOTE TO IMPLEMENT WATER RESTRICTION TO BEGIN MAY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025. MASS DEP RECOMMENDATION FOR THE SOUTHEAST REGION (LEVEL 1 MILD DROUGHT) IS ALL NON-ESSENTIAL OUTDOOR WATER USE IS RESTRICTED TO ONE DAY PER WEEK BEFORE 9AM AND AFTER 5PM.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to implement the water restriction of one day per week per household. Odd-numbered houses can use outside water on Tuesdays before 9 am and after 5 pm. Even-numbered houses can use outdoor water on Thursdays before 9 am and after 5pm.

This water restriction will be in effect May 1-Sept 30, 2025.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded this motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

NEW BUSINESS:

ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR MARCH BILL RE: EVERGREEN CEMETERY DUE TO PREVIOUSLY UNDETECTED AND NOW REPAIRED LEAK

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to charge Evergreen Cemetery the lowest rate for the total gallons used, for the usage in question on their March 2025 bill.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

ABATEMENT REQUEST FOR MARCH BILL RE: 23 LAKE ST FOR FAULTY TOILET

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to charge the lowest rate for the total gallons used on the March 2025 bill.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

ABATEMENT REQUEST FROM 36 COLE STREET A RE: LEAKY SHOWER VALVE BEHIND WALL

Ms. Smith stated the resident is seeking relief of the gallons consumed on the March 2025 bill. However, this request may come before the board again as the repair was not made until halfway through this current bill cycle.

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to charge the lowest rate for the total gallons consumed.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

AMENDED ITEM DPW STUDY GROUP DISCUSSION

Commissioner Kostka stated he would like to make a motion to not support the creation of a Department of Public Works at this time. Vice Chairman Erlandsen agreed and stated he feels this is being rushed through. However, he would be open to future discussion.

Commissioner Kostka stated he has concerns about the proposed structure.

Chairman Loring stated he has concerns regarding the lack of control that would be held by both the water and sewer commissioners in the case of a DPW.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

Chairman Loring stated referring back to the discussion of the moratorium, that the department has received information from Town Counsel that stated it would be inadvisable to lift the moratorium.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated he read in the town meeting warrant there was an article regarding a land swap at the mall with the town to install a gas station just outside Zone 2. Chairman Loring stated a gas station should not be installed upgradient to the town's wells.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated he was very concerned about the location of the proposed gas station, and it's proximity to Zone 2.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

LETTER DATED APRIL 10, 2025, TO GERALD CICIAREGA AT 17 SUMMER ST RE: ABATEMENT REQUEST

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

MAY 13, 2025 AT 4PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:50pm.

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. Smith
Clerk