



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JUNE 10, 2025

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Erlandsen called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

In attendance were Commissioner Richard W. Loring Jr., Superintendent Chris Veracka, Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Vice Chairman Robert Kostka was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2025 UNTIL JUNE 24, 2025

APPOINTMENTS:

MARK TRAVIS & CHUCK CONTI FROM MASS INSTALLATION, INC RE: METERS AND INSTALLATION

Mark Travis introduced himself to the board and his proposal to introduce a pilot program in Kingston with new meters. He explained the price of the meter remains the same for the life of the meter. The meter captures 1-min data resolution. He said his company is the only supplier in the industry that can save residents 10% on their homeowner's insurance. There is no need for new infrastructure, the meters are cloud-based and work on the existing cellular network. He is proud of the 99% read rate on his meters. Mr. Travis stated the billing for the pilot is scalable and integrated into the current billing system. There is no additional upfront investment.

Chairman Erlandsen asked if these meters could help with unaccounted-for water. Mr. Travis stated that this system allows you to have the ability to see what was pumped versus what was metered daily. He presented an example of a community who made a 600K investment in his meters, and it brought in 4 million in revenue.

Chairman Erlandsen asked if the batteries fail, does the entire meter have to be replaced? Mr. Travis stated no. There will be no interruption to the billing and parts can be replaced separately. He added, the meters are warranted for 20 years "tailpiece to tailpiece" which compared to ultrasonic meters, have to be replaced and parts can't be replaced separately.

Superintendent Veracka asked about frost protection. Mr. Travis stated they are designed not to freeze and there are no more freeze plates to replace.

Superintendent Veracka asked about transferring reads from malfunctioning meters. Mr. Travis described the process of setting up the meters by serial numbers in the Waterscope program and how that is not a problem with transferring reads.

Mr. Travis went on to describe the Waterscope Program that comes with the meter, which allows the residents to set up an account and monitor their own meter usage. He explained there is a standard and a premium version.

Ms. Smith asked about the cost of the Waterscope Program for residents and what the cost was for either version. Mr. Travis stated the standard version is free and the premium is \$1.99/mos. However, he doesn't see the need for the premium version. Both versions provide the same information and functionality. He reiterated that the 1-min data allows you to see a water event such as a spike in high usage and dial into the specific reason for that occurrence.

4:19 pm, resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting.

Superintendent Veracka asked if these meters would work with all cell companies and networks. Mr. Travis responded, yes. Superintendent Veracka asked about the placement and signals of meters below structure foundations. Mr. Travis

explained that during installation, his technicians make sure that before they leave the property the signal can be read and comes through with no interruption. Chairman Erlandsen asked about dead zones and Mr. Travis responded that solutions could be found.

Superintendent Veracka is thinking about the trailer parks in town with the larger meters and how they tend to be large water consumers. Mr. Travis said it's a good idea to start the pilot program with commercial meters first from a public relations aspect. It looks better to look at those larger consumers first rather than residents. Discussion continued regarding the location in town to install the pilot program. Mr. Travis suggested 1.5 inch -2 inch meters be installed to start, and commercial properties such as restaurants have other aspects to consider, such as ice makers and self-cleaning soda machines, which can lead to excessive usage. Mass Installation Inc can also test the meters that are taken out for the pilot program.

Mr. Travis stated he has seen up to 27% return on this meter investment. Commissioner Loring stated we should be careful discussing the difference that can be made and present this idea as a goal of replacing all the meters including resident accounts as well.

Mr. Travis used Bridgewater as an example. They sub-metered their mobile home park. He said the goal is to create a fair and level playing field for all residents. There will be no need to increase rates to make up for the loss of water.

Commissioner Loring asked about the cost of the meter. Mr. Travis stated the meter itself is \$350 and the installation is \$90 for a total of \$440. Chairman Erlandsen asked if the commercial meters were the same cost. Mr. Travis stated the larger meters vary in cost upon size. He went to discuss the cost of the \$350 meter, and it is for the life of the meter and covers everything. There is no additional software fee or reading fee.

Superintendent Veracka asked if spare parts are available to keep in stock. Mr. Travis stated he'd never been asked that before. He said typically, customers call Mass Installation Inc, but spare parts could be worked out to have in stock if needed.

Chairman Erlandsen spoke about the long-term cost regarding replacement, warranty etc. and said he likes what he's heard. Mr. Travis stated he's happy to offer 3-5 meters, for free, to start a pilot program to obtain data and compare.

4:45pm Mark Travis left the meeting.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT - CLOSE OUT UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated the punch list for the Main Street Water Main project is being fine-tuned. The seeded areas need to be established and there were some gate boxes that were paved over with asphalt. CC Construction will have to address these issues.

The recent pay requisition is included in the bill warrants this evening. Ms. Berger added, we are still waiting for all the police details. She stated there is a small contingency buffer available, and we should still be ok budget wise. The MassDOT permit was extended for another year to cover any work that may need to be done in the meantime.

KLEINFELDER UPDATE ON NEW WELL PROJECT

Ms. Berger stated a meeting was held yesterday with representatives from Kleinfelder and the superintendent. Discussions took place regarding the test wells. Site 18-4 is indicated to be 4x higher capacity than site 18-7. It appears to be a better producing well and is closer to the wet area, also known as a "shrub swamp" which is not classified as a wetland per Mass DEP. Kleinfelder does not expect this to be an issue with MassDEP. However, the town bylaws have regulations regarding shrub swamps which may involve extra permitting and erosion control. Commissioner Loring recommended KWD keep Conservation updated and involved in these discussions.

Ms. Berger stated they spoke about the continued road layout. The preferred layout is estimated to be 1,100 feet with a small section of the road near the Trackle Pond buffer zone (50-100 feet). Superintendent Veracka will meet with the conservation agent and walk through the property. Ms. Berger stated this proposed road layout will result in the least amount of tree clearing and the grading is better.

Ms. Berger would like to consider changing the water conservation bylaws. The current bylaw is based on a template from the 90's released by Mass DEP. The bylaw references an even/odd schedule for watering. A new Mass DEP template is less specific. Ms. Berger recommends a new bylaw change be explored and that the board start exploring that now. She continued that this will need to be addressed during the permitting process as Mass DEP will be more fixated on it. Ms. Smith asked if this was intended for special town meeting in the fall. Ms. Berger responded she felt it could wait for the annual spring town meeting.

Ms. Berger mentioned the previously discussed state and federal ear-marked funds. She stated the board had referenced reaching out to state representatives and senators. Ms. Berger stated she provided a draft template letter for the board's review. Commissioner Loring stated he felt the letter was clear and succinct and focused on building the new well and connecting that well to the treatment facility. Ms. Berger stated a contact person needs to be identified representing the Kingston Water Department. She included the project costs and the funding needed is 4.5 - 5.5 million dollars. Commissioner Loring said he would like to ask for the 5.5 million. Chairman Erlandsen asked if it made sense to make Superintendent Veracka the contact as he would be able to answer any technical questions. Ms. Berger stated there really wouldn't be anything technical asked. Chairman Erlandsen said that he would be the contact, as chairman of the board. Ms. Berger stated support letters from other entities such as the Board of Selectmen, Fire Department and Planning Department could come later.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

CHEMICAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND ARE IN PROCESS

Superintendent Veracka stated he has been working with Stacey on the new FY26 chemical cooperative contracts. The contracts for FY26 are in the process of being finalized by the town administrator.

COORDINATING WITH MARINO TO SCHEDULE INFRARED ROAD RESURFACING

Superintendent Veracka stated he's trying to schedule with Marino, a road surfacing company, to come into town and smooth over road patches. They are tentatively scheduled for June 23rd to come and do that work. It is weather-dependent and could be delayed depending on rain in the forecast as it pushes their work schedule behind.

UPDATE ON THE SHUT-OFF PROGRAM. COLLECTION RATE IS UPWARDS OF 90%.

REGARDING ACCOUNTS WITH PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS, 5 RIVERSIDE DR, HAS DEFAULTED ON THE PAYMENT TERMS.

Superintendent Veracka stated the shut-off program continues. There is one account that has defaulted on the payment arrangements that were made. Numerous attempts to reach the property owner have been made. The last notice was returned as vacant by the post office. There is a substantial amount due on the account.

Commissioner Loring recommended Superintendent Veracka speak with the town administrator and notify the Board of Health agent that we are going to proceed with a shut-off and the building will be uninhabitable. Superintendent Veracka stated there is reason to believe there is an internal plumbing leak inside the home, leading to excessive usage. The homeowner said it had been fixed, but the usage remains high. Commissioner Loring stated that we have tried everything under our control to work with this resident, and it's unfortunate it has come to this point.

Superintendent Veracka referenced the meetings regarding the new well project and Kleinfelder has asked for a new name for the well. Commissioner Loring recommended it be referred to as Trackle Pond Well #2, until such time the town wants to assign a name to it.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FINALIZE BACKFLOW INSPECTION VENDOR

Superintendent Veracka stated the previous backflow inspector who has worked for us the last several years has retired. We are now in need of a new vendor to do these inspections. Superintendent Veracka contacted three companies. One of them is no longer offering backflow inspection service. Weston & Sampson and New England

Backflow are the two available companies that provided quotes for this service. Weston & Sampson offer the inspection services with a one-time cost of \$2k for data transfer and a similar price per inspection to what we currently charge. New England Backflow provided a quote as well. However, their inspection fees are double the price of what we currently charge. Commissioner Loring asked how long is the term of the quote. Superintendent Veracka stated this quote expires December 31, 2025. Commissioner Loring asked if the cost of the inspection is paid by the consumer. Superintendent Veracka stated, yes, the consumer is billed for the service directly by KWD. Commissioner Loring stated he prefers Weston & Sampson not only because of the fees, but also because Weston & Sampson is a well-known local company. Commissioner Loring made the motion to accept the bid of Weston & Sampson to provide backflow inspections. Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously (2-0-0). Ms. Smith asked about the timing of the semi-annual and annual inspections. She said we typically test in the Spring and Fall, and we are behind schedule now. Superintendent Veracka stated he will contact Weston & Sampson about the timing of the inspections going forward. They may need to be adjusted.

Superintendent Veracka proposed a draft letter for the Board's review regarding enforcement of water restriction violations. The office has fielded several calls from around town regarding watering off hours. Commissioner Loring recommended including Mass DEP's notification of the drought situation and recommendations. Ms. Smith stated the notice could be double-sided with those recommendations on the back side of the letter.

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

MEMO DATED MAY 28, 2025 TO KATHLEEN BARRETTE, FINANCE DIRECTOR RE: SOLE SIGNATORY

MEMO DATED MAY 28, 2025 TO KEITH HICKEY, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RE: BOARD REORGANIZATION

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

JUNE 24, 2025 AT 3:45PM

Subsequent meetings for the summer will be held at 3:45pm.

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

Commissioner Loring made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion to adjourn, and it was voted unanimously (2-0-0).

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME

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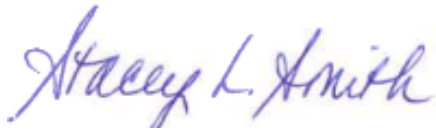
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey L. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk