



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Erlandsen called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

In attendance were Vice Chairman Robert Kostka, Commissioner Richard W. Loring Jr., Superintendent Chris Veracka, Ian Kasowitz and Chris McLean of Stiles Co and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Attending via Zoom were Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and resident Mark Guidoboni.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 31, 2025, AND AUGUST 12, 2025

Vice Chairman Kostka made a motion to approve the minutes of July 31, 2025 and August 12, 2025.

Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted 2-0-1. Commissioner Loring abstained from the vote.

APPOINTMENTS:

CHRIS MCLEAN OF STILES CO. RE: BADGER WATER METERS

Ian Kasowitz and Chris McLean of Stiles Co were present to discuss Badger water meters.

Ian stated he and his brother Eric, are authorized badger distributors, as owners of Stiles Co. Mr. Kasowitz stated the focus of Stiles Co. since 1983 has been meters. They recently acquired Regan Testing which allows them to continue and expand this focus. Discussion continued between Superintendent Veracka and Mr. Kasowitz regarding KWD's current system, including meter types, reading times, current billing software etc...

Mr. Kasowitz stated that meter support not only comes from Badger on the national level, but locally with Stiles Co and having that local customer support is key. He stated Badger is the last wholly owned meter company in North America. Their focus is not only meters, but they've expanded into water quality monitoring, network monitoring and pressure monitoring as well.

Chairman Erlandsen asked if Stiles Co offers AMR (drive by) or automatic meter reading. Mr. Kasowitz said that's why you currently have and AMI or automatic meter infrastructure is the next technology.

He added all their meters are compatible with Sensus, which is currently used by KWD, so there would be no need to have to convert everything out to Badger.

Mr. Kasowitz proceeded to introduce the different meters to the board. He started with the mechanical meter which is what he considers the "tried and true." It contains a large chamber with a nutating disk, which allows for quieter operation. The meter has a mechanical register. Mr. Kasowitz proceeded to explain how it works. Also available is a digital register or "meter top" which is compatible with AMI allowing alerts such as tamper and leak alerts. He said both are similar to the current Sensus SR2 meters currently in use.

The next meter presented was the Badger ultrasonic. The ultrasonic meters are bronze metal base with a polymer cover.

Vice Chairman Kostka asked if any warranty is on the meters. Mr. Kasowitz stated the warranties are twenty years, similar to Sensus products. He added the benefit of the ultrasonic meters is there are no parts to replace. They are

accurate within 1/8 of a gallon and have better accuracy. They come in all sizes. The con is the entire meter does have to be replaced at year twenty-one. Chairman Erlandsen asked if it is then recycled. Mr. Kasowitz said yes and no, the polymer and the mechanical meters can be recycled. The batteries cannot be recycled. Superintendent Veracka asked if the meters were Wi-Fi compatible. Mr. Kasowitz responded yes, with the AMI system, the meters come loaded with a customer portal available, which is a free app available on either Apple or Android phones and a website as well.

Mr. Kasowitz spoke about the AMI technology and the endpoints. He stated AMI has drive-by read availability as a backup in case of emergency. He stated the endpoints hold and record data up to 45 days. Discussion continued regarding the location of endpoints. He explained the differences with fixed networks that require antenna installation, equipment and IT. He stated that with AMI technology, the cellular range is within 5 miles from endpoint to tower. Chairman Erlandsen asked which cell networks are covered. Mr. Kasowitz responded, Badger partnered with Verizon and AT&T. He added, Badger is contracted with both and warrants the network for twenty years. He provided a full explanation of the customer portal and features provided to the end user.

Ms. Smith asked about the billing software with Munis and the connection to Badger. Mr. Kasowitz replied, it is a simple interface or bridge between the two. Discussion continued about different options for meters.

Superintendent Veracka asked about obtaining final reads for real estate closings. Mr. Kasowitz stated reads can be grabbed off the software with no physical site visit required. The endpoints record data four times a day during the week and once a day on the weekends. He added, they even offer a shut-off meter that has a built-in valve. The meter can be shut off remotely. He also added that the endpoints on the meters do not require "any in-the-field" programming.

At 4:54pm, resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting room.

Ms. Smith asked about the cost. Mr. Kasowitz stated the meters are approximately \$230–240 each, depending on the type. The upfront cost of the system is 5–6K for software, portal implementation and start-up training. He added, the cellular servicing fee is between .80-.99 per service per month. Superintendent Veracka asked if there was an installation program offered. Mr. Kasowitz stated they do not have an in-house installation program, but they can contract that service out. Discussion continued regarding costs, demo, pilot program and software.

Superintendent Veracka asked about freezing specific to the composite meters. Mr. Kasowitz stated those meters are throwaways if they freeze and break. Discussion continued regarding freezing and threading of end pieces. Mr. Kasowitz thanked the board for their time and stated he would follow up with an email detailing a pilot program opportunity.

Mr. Kasowitz and Mr. McLean left the meeting at 5:10pm.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT ENGINEERING RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated CC Construction addressed the punch list of items to finish except for the seeding which will be done in the spring and the small dip in the road on Summer Street.

NEW WELL PROJECT UPDATE - KLEINFELDER PROGRESS

Ms. Berger stated Kleinfelder is waiting to hear from Mass DEP. They have 90 days to review. Ms. Berger stated Ms. Ryan at Kleinfelder will check in with Mass DEP to answer any questions prior to the completion of the review. Ms. Berger stated the geotechnical borings are scheduled to begin the week of September 16th. Kirsten Ryan followed up on August 14th with Mass DEP and hasn't received any response to date.

REVIEW OF PLANS AND COMMENTS REGARDING 113 WAPPING RD, PRIOLO WAPPING REALTY

Ms. Berger reviewed the plans submitted for 113 Wapping Rd. She stated the service taps are too close together. She stated the rules and regulations require a minimum of 5 ft of separation. Anything closer than that weakens the integrity of the pipe. She recommended the developer needs to come up with a solution.

Ms. Berger stated the water service lines are separated from the leaching systems. However, it's unclear if they maintain the regulatory distance from those septic systems.

She stated the developer attempted a "loop" but it still resulted in a dead end. The developer needs to state why it's not looped per the requirement.

Superintendent Veracka stated it's best to have the developer come in and review the plans and comments.

Commissioner Loring stated the rules and regulations were developed for very specific purposes. Issuing waivers should not be an option. He stated it's the responsibility of the developer to work within the rules and regulations and not for the board to waive requirements.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

STATUS UPDATE ON LAND DONATION FROM MAY FAMILY

Superintendent Veracka stated town counsel has the paperwork regarding the land offer.

THIRD QUARTER SAMPLES WERE SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS. LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE PLAN IN PROCESS

Superintendent Veracka stated that third-quarter samples were done. Lead and copper letters are going out today and samples are scheduled to be done next week.

Chairman Erlandsen asked about the pre-school on Main Street and the end resolution. Superintendent Veracka reviewed that situation and the test results with the pre-school and explained the no-detect results done by the town. Commissioner Loring asked if the pre-school was notified. Superintendent Veracka stated that he had spoken with the school, and they were all set.

SEPTEMBER WATER AND SEWER BILLING HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE FOR PROCESSING

Superintendent Veracka stated the September quarterly bills have been processed. He said Laurie and Stacey worked diligently and in a timely manner to process the bill.

Vice Chairman Kostka asked about the requirements for well owners with irrigation. Discussion ensued regarding outside irrigation and well owners. Superintendent Veracka stated there is a requirement in the rules and regulations to have a visible sign on property if irrigation is provided by a well. Commissioner Loring noted the building department and the plumbing inspector should make those who apply for building permits aware that it is prohibited to have irrigation on town water. Superintendent Veracka stated the issue is when the property is sold to a new buyer, they are unaware of the restriction.

NEW BUSINESS:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 AT 4PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk