



TOWN OF KINGSTON  
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS  
OPEN SESSION  
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.  
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

**4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER**

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

In attendance were Commissioner Richard W. Loring Jr, Superintendent Chris Veracka, Josh Ordway, Paul Gunning and Jim Hart Jr., all from Core & Main and Clerk Stacey Smith.

Vice Chairman Robert Kostka was not present at the start of the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:**

**MEETING MINUTES:**

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2025

The minutes of August 26, 2025 were held until later in the meeting.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

PAUL GUNNING OF CORE & MAIN RE: PRESENTATION OF METER SYSTEMS

Chairman Erlandsen introduced himself and Commissioner Loring to the guests at the table and asked for them to do the same. Jim Hart, outside sales rep for Core & Main, Paul Gunning, senior meter specialist for Core & Main and Josh Ordway, meter manager for Core & Main all introduced themselves. Mr. Ordway presented a handout for the presentation. He stated he understands that KWD is currently a Sensus customer with them, and he was presenting the AMI technology this evening. He proceeded to explain the team, department structure and the individuals involved. For instance, he explained that Paul Gunning is the source of information related to meter services.

Mr. Ordway stated he was first with Sensus for 14 years before joining Core and Main and he is extremely familiar with the product. He said Core & Main is a multi-billionaire dollar a year publicly traded company, spread throughout the country. This is a benefit as inventory is plentiful. The local area, includes the Norwood and Taunton offices, who provide resources and inventory. There are 16 total locations in the New England area.

Mr. Ordway proceeded to explain the technology involved with AMI. Their product is called FlexNet. Basically, antennas bring in the reads from across town. It includes real-time information regarding leak detection and unaccounted for water. He spoke about the following advantages of this program. The first advantage is the primary use license frequency band. This frequency is protected from outside interference. Mr. Ordway said it has the highest power output in the industry at 2 watts of power. This system provides real-time on-demand meter reads, and they even offer a meter with a remote shut-off valve.

Chairman Erlandsen asked about the cell service spectrum. Mr. Ordway stated it's a primary use frequency band through the FCC that uses vertical assets that KWD owns, such as water tanks. Core & Main would facilitate a propagation study, which, along with a list of the meter locations, would tell Sensus how many antennas would be needed. Superintendent Veracka asked if weather affects the ability to read meters. Mr. Ordway stated, yes it can. However, they take all things into consideration during the propagation study. Some degradation can occur in heavy snow. Mr. Ordway continued to explain the benefits regarding the primary use frequency band.

Mr. Gunning added, what sets Sensus apart from their competition is that their propagation study is guaranteed. If any additional costs occur, they are the responsibility of Sensus. Superintendent Veracka asked about the space needed and the power necessary for this system. Mr. Ordway responded, it needs 120 volts and the equipment sits in a 22in x 22in x

8in deep box with a coax cable attached to an antenna, which would be placed on your water tank. Chairman Erlandsen asked if elevation was required. Mr. Ordway stated, no it's all taken into consideration based on the assets available. If needed, the antenna could be placed on an extender. Superintendent Veracka asked if the radio equipment is in weatherproof equipment. Mr. Ordway stated it is.

Mr. Ordway proceeded to present the different meter styles to the board. The first meter is the IPerl meter. It comes with a 20-year warranty. The battery is warranted for a full 15 years and a prorated 5-year warranty. It is the current meter used by the KWD. The Cordone1 is a commercial 1.5- 6 inch meter. It comes with the same warranty as the IPerl, with both the meter and battery. It has pressure and temperature sensors. Those sensors have a 5-year warranty. Mr. Ordway presented the radios or the white boxes attached to the meters which are used to obtain remote reads. KWD currently has 850 of these radios in the system, which is approximately 1/4 of the meters in town. Mr. Ordway went on to explain that these radios or "mxu" are either coded with an M or an R. The M's are migratable to the AMI system and the R's are over 15 years old and can't communicate to the antenna. These would be offered a trade-in program with a 16% discount on new radios.

Superintendent Veracka stated an issue is with the age of the meters out there and unaccounted for water. Those meters are coming to "end of life" and we are losing accuracy as they are failing to read.

Chairman Erlandsen asked if there was a portal available to customers.

Mr. Ordway stated a customer portal is available for software purchase. Customers can log in and set alerts for high usage, leak detection, etc...

Vice Chairman Kostka entered the meeting at 4:21pm.

Discussion continued regarding temperature sensors and features on the customer portal. Mr. Ordway went on to add that Core & Main has partnerships with several companies for software, installation, etc.. Core & Main wants to ease the process of inventory, installation and such. Mr. Gunning added, installation is a critical piece of the project that doesn't get discussed a lot but is highly recommended. The partnership with installers ensures cooperation between Core & Main, the installer and the water department. A work order management system allows KWD to see who is where and when during installations.

Mr. Ordway asked where do meters get installed now? Superintendent Veracka stated inside homes either in crawlspaces or basements. Mr. Ordway said he would recommend meters be installed outside the home to allow service and troubleshooting without having to gain access inside the home. Superintendent Veracka stated that's not conducive in this area with the cold winters, or with residents with home improvements who inadvertently disconnect wires and remove equipment.

Commissioner Loring asked if they offered any type of pilot program.

Mr. Ordway stated we could do that and install an antenna, or we could take you into a local community with FlexNet so you can see how the system operates. Mr. Gunning added, Yarmouth is one of the closer communities. He added, there's also Revere, Chelsea and Watertown.

Mr. Ordway spoke about the software application, Sensus Analytics. This application allows reports to be pulled such as consumption and customer information. Core & Main would provide training on the software, meter installation and troubleshooting. Mr. Gunning spoke about the benefits of this service training and the continued support Core & Main provides to their customers. Core & Main is the sole provider of Sensus products in 27 of the 50 states.

Ms. Smith asked about the billing software and if there are any differences with the current billing program. Mr. Ordway responded it is much easier but very similar to the current process with Munis.

Commissioner Loring asked about the larger meters above 6-inch and their availability. Mr. Ordway stated meters ranging in size from 8-10 inches will be available next year. Meters larger than 10-inches will be available in 2027. He stated OMNI meters are available currently for those larger needs. Discussion ensued regarding larger meters, town

meeting requests and funding options.

Chairman Erlandsen asked about the costs of the propagation study and stated he is interested in a pilot program.

Mr. Gunning stated the propagation study is anywhere from \$500-600 and is credited back if KWD decides to go with AMI. Mr. Ordway stated they could follow up with more information regarding the propagation study. Mr. Ordway thanked the Board for their time. The presentation completed at 4:40 pm.

As they were packing up, Commissioner Loring asked how much the installation costs were per meter. Mr. Ordway responded roughly \$160-170 per meter, depending on the prevailing wage.

**KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT C.E RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES**

Prior to the engineering update, Commissioner Loring made a motion to accept the minutes of August 26, 2025. Vice Chairman Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted (3-0-0).

Superintendent Veracka said Kristen Berger was unable to attend due to sickness, but she provided an email update for the Board and he will present.

**CLOSE OUT OF MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT - PAY REQ# 8 FOR CC CONSTRUCTION, CHANGE ORDER #4**

Superintendent Veracka stated the change order #4 has been processed for CC Construction. That change order covered a police detail from April and a flagger invoice from December.

Pay requisition #8 reduced the retainage to 1%. The work remaining to be addressed is the depression on Summer St and the seeding to be established in the spring.

**NEW WELL PROJECT UPDATE FROM KLEINFELDER**

Continued from Ms. Berger's email update, Mass DEP request for site examination is ongoing. Kleinfelder is in correspondence with Mass DEP and reports that a response letter will be issued soon. Geotechnical test pits and boring were conducted.

**WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:**

**LEAD AND COPPER TESTING IS IN PROCESS**

Superintendent Veracka stated the lead and copper test for the third quarter have been completed. We experienced great turnaround time and cooperation from the residents.

**THE WARRANT FOR FALL TOWN MEETING OPENED ON SEPT 9TH AND CLOSES ON SEPT 24TH. DEPARTMENT ARTICLES MUST BE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO SEPT 24TH.**

Superintendent Veracka stated regarding Fall town meeting, the housekeeping article from ATM FY25, intended to correct the error with our surplus revenue expenditures, cannot be made until ATM FY26 as retained earnings will not be certified in time for the Fall town meeting.

Superintendent Veracka stated the foreman's truck is expected to arrive by the end of this month.

Additionally, Superintendent Veracka stated Town Administrator Keith Hickey's last day is today. George Samia, currently serving as Interim Town Administrator in Fairhaven will be starting as Interim Town Administrator in Kingston next week.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**NONE**

**WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:**

NONE

**BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:**

NONE

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

OCTOBER 14, 2025 AT 4PM

**ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:47pm.

**ZOOM INFORMATION**

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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MEETING ID: 890 5201 3207

PASSCODE: 444915

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith  
Clerk