TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JULY 7, 2026

4:00 PM – CALL TO ORDER
Chairman Robert Erlandsen called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

In attendance were Vice Chairman Richard W. Loring Jr., Commissioner Robert R. Kostka, Superintendent Christopher Veracka and Clerk Stacey Smith
Attending via ZOOM was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2026
Vice Chairman Loring made a motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 2026. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

BOB REGO, RIVER HAWK ENVIRONMENTAL RE: 113 WAPPING RD - TECHNICAL ARGUMENT AGAINST USING 12-INCH WATER MAIN
Resident Mark Guidoboni entered the meeting at 4:02pm.

Bob Rego of Riverhawk Engineering and Glenn Priolo of 113 Wapping Road presented before the board. Mr. Rego stated the last conversation with the Board was regarding a flow test that needed to be done on the property. That flow test has been completed. The results showed there is more than sufficient water supply to the development to support an 8-inch main over the 12-inch requested by the board. Mr. Rego wanted to present his argument in support of the 8-inch main. Currently, he said there is a 10-inch main on Wapping Road. The furthest connection points are 220 feet apart, resulting in 1980 foot loop connecting into the 10-inch main on Wapping Road. He stated there is less resistance in a 10-inch main versus an 8-inch main. If this main was expanded into a future larger development, then a 10-inch main would be more beneficial. This is an isolated loop. A 12-inch main will create stagnation, lose chlorination and doesn't increase the fire flow or pressure within the development.

Discussion took place over the map on the wall showing the location of the property and the layout of the development in relation to surrounding land.

Vice Chairman Loring stated the prior discussion he remembers included the rules and regulations and why they were changed to reflect the 12-inch main requirement. He said it's not about what this development needs today but what the Kingston Water Department may need in the future for future development. Mr. Priolo stated, at the last meeting, the discussion was if the test showed adequate flow for an 8-inch main would be approved. Chairman Erlandsen then referred to Kristen Berger of Resilient CE for her input and recollection of the previous meeting. Ms. Berger and Superintendent Veracka both agreed that Mr. Rego is correct in his analysis. Discussion continued. Vice Chairman Loring wanted to make sure it was recorded that this is a very specific property with a loop that cannot be expanded in the future due to the land owned around it.
Commissioner Kostka made the motion to allow the 8-inch main in the development. Vice Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was unanimously voted (3-0-0).

Mr. Rego and Mr. Priolo left the meeting at 4:13pm.

Chairman Erlandsen asked for clarification regarding the 12-inch main requirement and if this was going to be an issue in the future with having to make exceptions. Superintendent Veracka stated he felt this was an appropriate exception as others in similar situations have been made. Vice Chairman Loring stated what bothered him was the developer's argument that the cost of the valves was prohibitive to the project. Vice Chairman Loring stated the developer's cost should not be the concern of the water department. He said that's part of doing business. Chairman Erlandsen stated while he supported the developer's request for the 8-inch main, he does agree that cost should not be the issue over water quality.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

SOUTH STREET WELL CLEANING - UPDATE ON STATUS OF CONTRACT

Ms. Berger stated the contracts were sent up to Town Hall awaiting signatures. Work for the well cleaning will be scheduled for the Fall. Superintendent Veracka stated the contracts have been fully executed.

NEW WELL PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated Kleinfelder is still working on the pump test report. They have a goal to have 75% of the design of the pump station completed this month.

Regarding the discussion on the zone 1, MEPA provided some feedback. They'll evaluate land ownership as part of the ENF process. They aren't willing to say much more about it at this point.

She added that Superintendent Veracka stated he reached out to the conservation agent regarding a potential easement as Mass DEP stated that would satisfy them.

UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER COMPLIANCE PLAN

Ms. Berger stated the unaccounted for water plan is still awaiting the M36 Audit report. Superintendent Veracka stated he has a scheduled ZOOM meeting,on July 10th at 9am, with Tighe and Bond to review the results.

Ms. Berger stated she did review the most recent final draft of the consent order, and she said Mass DEP had updated some of the dates as many of them had been in the past, so there's no major concern with completing this information on time.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON WATER METER CONVERSION

Superintendent Veracka stated he has been in discussion with Mass Installation and the Town Administrator regarding the meter replacement program. Due to procurement laws, an RFP will have to be put out due to the expense. Superintendent Veracka stated he's working with the vendor on supporting documentation. Vice Chairman Loring stated an RFP needs to be broad enough in scope that more than one vendor can bid it. We cannot use Mass Installations specifications on the RFP, as it needs to be open to all methods of installation. He continued that he will insist any RFP needs to be reviewed thoroughly by the Board before going out to the public. Vice Chairman Loring would like to see this process continue so that we can stay within the deadlines in the consent order. Commissioner Kostka asked if the special article funds totaling approximately 40K could be used in the meantime to purchase meters for stock. Superintendent Veracka stated that we are unable to go forward with another meter at this time. Discussion continued.

Vice Chairman Loring stated the project will likely have to go before the Town Meeting for approval.

PUMP OPERATOR POSITION HAS BEEN POSTED INTERNALLY.

Superintendent Veracka stated that the pump operator has been posted internally. There have been no licensed applicants who have applied. The position will be posted externally.

He stated all employee reviews have been completed, and new pay sheets signed and submitted.

REVIEW FINAL DRAFT OF ACO

Superintendent Veracka stated there were some dates that have been adjusted due to the time it took for all parties to review the document. He reviewed the document with Ms. Berger and recommended the Board's signatures.

Ms. Smith provided the original document for Chairman Erlandsen to sign.

CHEMICAL CONTRACTS ARE IN PROCESS OF BEING FINALIZED.
Superintendent Veracka stated all three chemical contracts have been signed and are fully executed.

KWD CREWS CONTINUE TO MITIGATE LEAKS.
Superintendent Veracka stated, the crew has been out and busy with leaks. Most recently, on June 25th, they encountered a leak at Frank St and Smith's Lane. They worked a long day in the hot sun and did a great job. Chairman Erlandsen asked about an incident on Prospect Court. He said he was contacted by a resident who experienced a leak at the end of June. Superintendent Veracka stated the leak on Prospect Court came in while they were doing the work on Frank St and Smith's Lane. Chairman Erlandsen stated he was told the water department employee who went to the property said there was no overtime available on the weekend to repair the leak, so it would have to wait until Monday. He said the resident pumped the water into a trash can and was filling up a 45 gallon barrel every 5 minutes all weekend long. Superintendent Veracka stated he didn't know where that data is coming from. Chairman Erlandsen stated it's coming from the resident. Superintendent Veracka said they didn't contact the office to make those statements and he was unaware. Chairman Erlandsen recited the information given to him. His concern was the statement that Kingston would not pay overtime to fix the leak over the weekend. He asked if we had a policy not to pay overtime over a weekend? Was there a crew available to fix it? Superintendent Veracka stated he's not sure who would've said that, we always have a crew available. He added, he didn't believe the leak to be that significant that it couldn't wait until Monday. Chairman Erlandsen said he's very concerned about the unaccounted-for water and a leak this significant ran all weekend. Discussion continued. Chairman Erlandsen recommended a conversation be had with the department employees to make sure they understand overtime is available when needed. Superintendent Veracka stated the crew goes out to find leaks, determines their severity and schedules repairs accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE CURRENT WATER RESTRICTION AND CHANGE NECESSARY DUE TO THE RECENT DROUGHT DECLARATION BY DCR OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES TO LEVEL 2- SIGNIFICANT DROUGHT DATED JUNE 9, 2026
The State has issued a Level 2 drought notice to Southeastern Massachusetts effective June 9th. Commissioner Kostka asked with the recent rain, does that drop the drought level back down to Level 1? Chairman Erlandsen said he was unsure and referred to Ms. Berger. Ms. Berger stated the drought commission meets regularly to adjust. While this recent rainfall is beneficial, it's not enough to change the drought status immediately. Commissioner Kostka said his concern is it's difficult to ask residents to go to hand watering when we've just received the recent rain. Discussion took place about whether the current water restriction needs to be adjusted to handheld watering only. Vice Chairman Loring suggested we utilize the town's electronic boards to notify the public of the current water restriction. Ms. Berger stated the town's water management permit was originally based on streamflow. When the dam was removed, the calendar-based model went into place to meet compliance with the permit. Discussion continued regarding whether KWD would be in violation if the restriction wasn't changed to adapt to the Level 2 drought. Ms. Berger stated we are currently in compliance with the existing permit. Chairman Erlandsen recommended holding off on changing the restriction and revisit this as the summer continues.

149 MAIN ST, BAYMONT HOTEL PROPOSAL TO REDEVELOP HOTEL INTO RESIDENTIAL HOUSING UNITS
Superintendent Veracka presented to the Board a plan for the Baymont Hotel to be converted into apartments. He said the plans depict the original 108 rooms being redesigned into 97 apartments. They are proposing 80 studio apartments, 12 1-bedroom apartments and 5 2-bedroom apartments. Currently, there is not enough parking to support this plan. Commissioner Kostka asked if the water use would be similar, as he couldn't see it being significantly higher. Vice Chairman Loring suggested a 2-inch meter be replaced with the new meter program when that time comes around. Chairman Erlandsen asked if there were any comments needed from the water commissioners or was this still in the approval phase. Superintendent Veracka stated, no comments were requested at this time as it is in the early stages of approval.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

JULY 21, 2026 AT 4PM
It was decided to meet on July 28, 2026, and go back to the regular 2nd and 4th Tuesday meeting schedule.
The August meetings will be on August 11th and August 25th.

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:
Commissioner Kostka made the motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Loring seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).
The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
JOIN ZOOM MEETING
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89052013207?PWD=AWNZOWIYK01WCGZJR2VEBFJNDVLSQT09
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Respectfully submitted,

Stacey L. Smith

Stacey L. Smith
Clerk