

# Water Supply District of Acton

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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2016

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## Agenda:

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve Minutes from the December 7th Meeting
- C. OLD BUSINESS:
  - 1. Town of Concord Proposed Connection to the District off Knox Trail in Acton.
  - 2. Nuclear Metals Superfund Site Update.
  - 2. Review of DRAFT Budget and Warrant Articles for Fiscal Year 2017.
- D. NEW BUSINESS:
  - 1. Planning of Public Open House for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant.

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2016 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Ronald Parenti.

## Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chair), Stephen Stuntz  
District Manager: Chris Allen  
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates  
Environmental Compliance Manager: Matthew Mostoller  
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki  
Finance Committee: Charles Bradley  
WLMAC: Barry Rosen

## A. Comments from Citizens

Mr. Wang emailed the District complaining about the fixed charges (service fee & bond debt fee) on his quarterly water bill. Mr. Allen explained in an email to him why we do it that way.

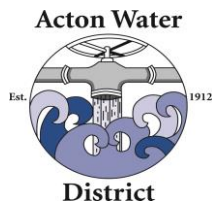
## B. Approve Minutes from the December 7th Meeting

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on December 7, 2015 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## C. Old Business:

### 1. Town of Concord's Proposed Connection to the District off Knox Trail

Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a letter from WLMAC providing their feedback on the Town of Concord's proposed connection to the District off Knox Trail in Acton. Mr. Stuntz stated that at this time they will leave it to the voters to decide whether this connection should be made. He stated to leave on the agenda and the Commissioners can discuss what they plan to say at the Annual Meeting. He did state that they won't agree to anything until an inter-municipal agreement is in place. Regarding the inter-municipal agreement, Mr. Allen referred to the drafted article (enclosed in tonight's packets) that Counselor Bassett wrote which allows the District to seek special legislation for expansion of the current District bounds.



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Mr. Rosen stated that regarding warrant article the Commissioners can defer; support; don't support or take no position.

Mr. Allen emailed Alan Cathcart, Superintendent of Water/Sewer Division with Town of Concord, in December regarding the availability of excess water capacity, and the willingness to sell it to the District. This email was to let him know that there may be a possibility that the District will need to take Assabet 1A off-line during the cleanup of the contamination plume at the Nuclear Metals Superfund site. Mr. Cathcart responded and stated that they would be willing to sit down to discuss the request, but more specific information must be available.

## 2. Nuclear Metals Superfund Site Update

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that District representation had a meeting with state and federal regulators on 12/15/2015. The District, District Counsel, the Environmental Consultant, special Environmental Counsel, and the engineering consultant, Wright-Pierce, met with multiple individuals from EPA and DEP at the MA DEP office in Boston. At this meeting the representatives from Nuclear Metals and WR Grace Superfund sites provided their updates and the conditions of the plumes. Mr. Allen stated that while it was a nice information exchange, there didn't seem to be too much progress made during the discussion and that there is a disconnect between Boston and the Central Regional Office of MA DEP regarding 1,4 dioxane and the management of the guidance value of .3 ppb for drinking water.

At the Nuclear Metals site, an additional monitoring well was put in last week...MW-40 (next to detention pond at 16 Knox Trail). Sampling concentrations of 1,4 dioxane indicate 5 to 6 ppb in the Bedrock inside the 400 feet Zone 1 radius of Assabet 1A. Current treatment at the new South Acton Water Treatment Plant is not designed to remove 1,4 dioxane.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that Ray Talkington visited an Advanced Oxidation facility in Tucson, AZ that has higher 1,4 dioxane concentrations with higher system flow rates. One of the major issues with treatment of the contaminant is treating such low concentrations at higher flow rates.

Depending on what they find at MW-40 well will help determine the location of a pump and treat facility. This will go either on Acton side at 16 Knox Trail or the Concord side near Valley Sports Arena. Additional sampling must be done before that decision can be made

Mr. Stuntz asked the question, "When will water be extracted and treated?" Mr. Mostoller responded that extracting will take place within next month or two but not treated. NMI is examining the possibility of a recirculating loop...pumping back to higher ground near the NMI site.

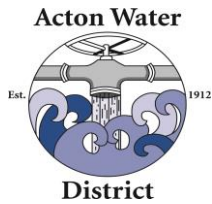
Mr. Mostoller, if they ultimately treat for 1,4 dioxane a synthetic resin system would likely be used (i.e. Ambersorbe by Dow).

Mr. Allen stated that everything is driven by available funding and what that is currently is unclear.

## 3. Review of DRAFT Budget and Warrant Articles for FY 2017

Warrant Articles update:

Mr. Allen stated that Ms. Bates, Treasurer of District, recommended adding an article...Article 14 to seek the District vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 via short-term borrowing for water main improvements in the Indian Village neighborhood. Ms. Bates stated that it will take two fiscal years to fund this warrant, it does not impact bond debt fee due to it being a short term borrowing.



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Article 12 had slight alteration (firm numbers added) from \$60,000 to \$65,000 for purchasing two new vehicles.

Article 5 has been added. This article seeks special legislation from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to expand the District's borders or otherwise allow it to service and to supply water to a property in Concord, abutting 37 Knox Trail in Acton, for Concord's use of the property in Concord to use as a bus maintenance depot, and other future uses, and to authorize the Commissioners to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement to determine the terms and conditions of such provision of water on terms determined by the Commissioners or to take any other action relative thereto.

The rest of the articles have not changed.

Mr. Allen and Ms. Bates met with finance committee last Thursday, 1/7/16. The Finance Committee recommended accepting the warrant articles. The Commissioners will hold off approving the warrant articles until Mr. Phillips can be present.

Budget update:

Health insurance changed from \$310,000 to \$325,000 - still level funded.

Otherwise no other changes.

The Commissioners will hold off approving the Budget until Mr. Phillips can be present.

## **Other Old Business:**

Annual Commissioners Report, Mr. Allen needs by next meeting. Mr. Allen will provide a bullet list of items that will be covered in his and the Environmental Manager's reports for Mr. Parenti to minimize redundancy and overlap in the Commissioners' report.

## **D. New Business:**

### 1. Planning of Public Open House for the South Acton Water Treatment Plant

The open house is currently being planned for May 7<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, attendees at the NEWWA Annual Conference and Tradeshow held in Worcester in March will be bussed in to tour the facility.

## **Other New Business:**

Mr. Parenti asked the question, "is there a provision in the bylaws for when a Commissioner can't finish his term?" Mr. Allen answered yes.

*Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and it was unanimously voted.*