

Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
693 Massachusetts Avenue
Acton, MA 01720

January 12, 2009

Agenda: Comments from Citizens
 Approve Minutes of December 8, 2008 Meeting

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant Construction
Discussion of MTBE Settlement

NEW BUSINESS

Review Draft Warrant Articles for 2009 Annual Meeting
Update from Conference Call with Standard & Poor's

Minutes of January 12, 2009 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti, Phillips, and Stuntz. Also in attendance were District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary J. Bates, District Counsel Mary Bassett, and Finance Committee Member David Butler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 P.M.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from Citizens at tonight's meeting.

Approve Minutes of December 8, 2008

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on December 8, 2008 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of approving the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant Construction

Mr. Allen supplied the Commissioners with progress photographs of the construction at the Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant and stated that construction is now on schedule and that the contractors are no longer ahead of schedule. He said that most of the building is now intact and the piping is in progress. Mr. Parenti asked if the wells had been x-rayed and Mr. Allen responded that he was unsure. Mr. Parenti also questioned if the weather has been a problem and Mr. Allen responded with no, but that space heaters are available if needed for materials, etc. and the equipment is covered with plastic sheeting.

Mr. Allen said that by the end of January, the contractor hopes to have the roof trusses installed, have the back-up generator in place, as well as all of the exterior concrete pours completed. June 9, 2009 is the substantial completion date with July 19, 2009 being the final completion date of the project.

Mr. Phillips inquired about an opening ceremony and asked if there are any plans and Mr. Allen stated that he wasn't sure at this point, but the Acton Water District will plan something for the opening. Mr. Phillips stated that he felt that Pam Resor should be invited.

Discussion of MTBE Settlement

Included in tonight's package that the Commissioners received was a memo from Richard M. Sandman, Esq. (dated 12/31/2008) regarding the MTBE Settlement. The memo states that the settlement with the defendants, other than Exxon, is now final and they enclosed the settlement checks as well as the settlement statements to the AWD. The Acton Water District has deposited the settlement checks through the Boston Financial Group.

Other Old Business

Ms. Bassett informed the Commissioners that the Telecommunication Lease from Crown Castle has been signed.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Draft Warrant Articles for 2009 Annual Meeting

The Commissioners reviewed the draft Warrant Articles for the 2009 Annual Meeting to be held on March 18, 2009. Mr. Allen reviewed the list and stated that the first four articles are usual items for cleaning of the wells, water main breaks, etc. He discussed Article #5 and said that this was an annual maintenance line item, but the cost has doubled this year due to the cost of carbon. This amount is usually taken from the WR Grace account, but due to the high increase in cost, the difference may have to come from other accounts. A suggestion was to take the additional cost from the M&O account and to establish a budget line item for this specific cost moving forward. The Commissioners will discuss with the Finance Committee. Mr. Allen said that the replacement of the granular activated carbon media is due to be replaced sometime the end of March 2009 or the beginning of April 2009.

Mr. Allen discussed Article #8 and said that valve at the Great Hill Water Storage Tank is approximately 40 years old and isn't working properly and that it is beginning to be a maintenance problem. He described to the Commissioners how the new 8" altitude valve will work.

Mr. Allen discussed how the state of Massachusetts is proposing an economic stimulus package to assist in solving the current national economic troubles. This package may include water and sewer infrastructure projects that are “shovel ready”. He submitted three projects for water main upgrades to the Lt. Governor which included Arlington Street, Main Street, and Coughlin/Taylor/Huckleberry. All of these projects should be “shovel ready” in < 180 days, which is the current time threshold.

Update from Conference Call with Standard & Poor’s

Ms. Bates updated the Commissioners on the conference call the Acton Water District had with Standard & Poor’s regarding a request for a rating for the District. During the conference call, Standard & Poor’s asked the District approximately 10 questions. Ms. Bates stated that the AWD is hoping that a rating will be available to the District within 10-14 days. The Town of Acton has a rating of AA+ and the AWD is hoping for the same.

Ms. Bates said that the bond sale is scheduled for February 4, 2009 and that the bonds will be available for the Commissioners’ signatures at the next Commissioners Meeting scheduled for January 26, 2009. It was noted that the 20 year bond is almost at 4% and the short term bond (less than one year) is at 1%.

Other New Business

Mr. Allen reminded the Commissioners that the Annual Report is due on January 26, 2009 and the Annual Report will go to the printer on January 27, 2009.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.