

# Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
January 23, 2012

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, January 23, 2012 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Leonard Phillips.

Present: Commissioners Leonard Phillips (Chairman), Stephen Stuntz, and Ronald Parenti. Chris Allen, District Manager; Mary Jo Bates, District Treasurer/Collector; Mary Bassett, District Counselor; Lynn Protasowicki, Commissioners Secretary. Chuck Bradley, Finance Committee Member(s). Barry Rosen representing both WLMAC & WRAC.

## A. Comments from Citizens

No comment from citizens at tonight's meeting.

## B. Approval of Minutes from January 9th Meeting

Mr. Phillips moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on January 9, 2012 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes.

## C. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Update and Discussion of Toilet & Washing Machine Rebate Program.

Mr. Allen stated that the toilet and washing machine rebate program was originally rolled-out as a beta program for six months however it hasn't reached the cap. At the recommendation of Matt Mostoller, Environmental Compliance Manager, it was determined that the toilet & washing machine rebate program should run year round. There will be guidelines and restrictions for participants, for example, the folks that partake in the program need to submit their applications with receipts within 90 days of purchasing their toilet or washing machine.

From 2009 folks that took part in the program have seen a savings of:

11 cubic feet to 15 cubic feet on the washing machine  
9 cubic feet to 13 cubic feet on the toilets

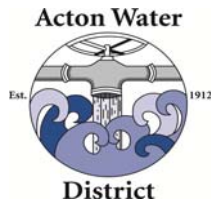
In 2011, the District reimbursed \$4,500 in toilet rebates (60 new toilets installed) and \$1,400 in washing machine rebates (14 new washing machines installed).

The application is available to download from the Acton Water District web site.

Mr. Allen asked the Commissioners for their approval to run the rebate program year-round. Mr. Phillips moved to accept the program as year-round and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of accepting the toilet and washing machine rebate program as a year-round program.

## D. OLD BUSINESS

### 1. Follow-up from Homeowner at 253D School Street on Abatement Request and Findings.



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Mr. Jesus Villasenor and Mrs. Maria Quisumbing of 253D School Street were present at tonight's meeting. Mr. Villasenor presented to the Commissioners a letter addressing the letter that Mr. Allen sent him on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He asked the Commissioners two questions (which both are noted in his letter):

1. What is the AWD's responsibility? And, can AWD really claim that the amount of water lost is accurate?
2. What is the actual water loss?

Mr. Villasenor did receive another estimate from Onyx Corporation for replacing the water main and is enclosed with the letter he presented to the Commissioners.

Mr. Stuntz stated that we have confidence in the meter readings however maybe the meter reading was written down inaccurately. Mr. Parenti stated that AWD can not verify that the meter was reading correctly because the meter was scrapped.

Mr. Phillips stated that he is uncomfortable with Mr. Villasenor's water bill and this is definitely an outlier. Mr. Phillips suggests to the Commissioners that they look at all the water bills that had leaks and come up with a means to a solution. Mr. Parenti and Mr. Stuntz would still like to think about it.

Mr. Phillips stated that without the evidence (i.e. old meter) the burden is on the AWD. He urges fellow Commissioners to discuss further and come up with reasonable solution. He informed Mr. Villasenor that the Commissioner will not make any decisions without him being present. The Commissioners thanked the homeowners for their patience and working with the AWD in a reasonable fashion.

Ms. Bates presented to the Commissioners the water bill in question for Mr. Villasenor so that the Commissioners could see how much water had been used in one quarter. From 8/14-12/14, 1,359 cubic feet of water was used for a total of \$55.77. Mr. Parenti would like to look at these numbers further.

Counselor Bassett would like to look at the law on this. She stated that the burden of proof is on AWD to show that the water went through the meter. Without the meter the District will have a harder time proving that point.

#### Action Items:

1. Advice from Counselor Bassett at next meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Mr. Parenti will come up with some calculations based upon the information above.

#### 2. Approval of Final Budget and Warrant for FY 2013.

Mr. Allen stated that the warrant was closed and approved at the last meeting held on January 9<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the only change from the last meeting is the addition of an article to appropriate additional funds from the Grace account for piloting treatment technologies in South Acton, and that it needs to be approved this evening.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the budget for fiscal year 2013 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the budget for fiscal year 2013.



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### 3. Warrant Article Assignments and Order for Presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Enclosed in tonight's Commissioners packets is the final list of warrant articles. The order of presentation for each warrant will be as follows:

Leonard A. Phillips  
Stephen C. Stuntz  
Ronald R. Parenti

### 4. Update and Discussion of Pending Litigation for Encroachment of Assabet Sand & Gravel on District Land Off High Street in South Acton.

Counselor Bassett informed the Commissioners that the judge has not made a decision yet. She stated that she sent a request to plaintiffs for production of documents.

Aside: She spoke with Mr. Alvin Piper and told him that he will be receiving an invitation for the Centennial open house.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that Mr. Macone has put in a mobile crusher in the area of encroachment, and has been returning mobile equipment to the disputed area. Counselor Bassett stated that Mr. Allen should get pictures and if possible, start monitoring water quality in this area.

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Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.