

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 953
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

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Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA
Monday, February 12, 2018

A. Comments from Citizens

B. Approve Minutes of January 29th Meeting

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Smart Meters

- Follow-up discussion associate with a citizens' request from the meeting of Monday, January 29th.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letters of Support to State Legislators for Bill 1123 "Authorizing Municipal Use of the Prudent Investor Standards".

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti, Len Phillips (Chairman), Stephen Stuntz

District Manager: Chris Allen

District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

WLMAC: Barry Rosen

Acton Selectperson: Janet Adachi

Green Acton: Lucy Kirshner, 35 Parker Street

Citizen:

Mary Lynn Miller, 5 Patrick Henry Circle

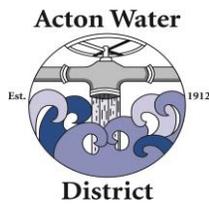
The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Phillips.

A. Comments from Citizens:

Ms. Mary Lynn Miller asked why parts of Acton don't have fire hydrants (i.e. North Acton) and should the town cover the cost to install them or does the Water District handle this. Mr. Allen stated that there is a lot of development in North Acton and typically the developers install water pipes to supply new development including the hydrants. He also informed her that in parts of town that have no water mains, and hence, no hydrants, firemen will bring a water truck to put out a fire, or will draw from a surface water pond, or body. He informed Ms. Miller that there is always opportunity for a group of residents to petition for a betterment but it typically can't be just one resident; it needs to be a group of residents petitioning. This would be paid over 20-years on the property tax bill by all residents with access to a new pipe, whether they connect, or not.

B. Approve Minutes of January 29th Meeting

All documents referred to in meeting minutes are available for inspection at the office of Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-9107.



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Mr. Stuntz made a motion to approve the modified minutes of January 29, 2018. It was seconded by Mr. Phillips and unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of Smart Meters.

- Follow-up discussion associated with a citizens' request from the meeting of Monday, January 29th.

Mr. Phillips opened up the discussion by stating that these Smart meters produce extremely low radio frequency and they enable a convenient and frequent reading interval that can protect the homeowner from undetected leaks.

Mr. Allen stated there are cost benefits of the Smart meters including because it's a cellular network the District does not need to send a person out to manually read meters (i.e. it saves time, wear and tear on vehicle, etc.); the meter reads frequently which helps protect the homeowner from undetected leaks and unnecessary costs; and the cost of technology will decrease as time passes, and should reduce the expense for the homeowner.

Mr. Parenti did some research on Smart Meters and found 2 major objections to these meters: companies are obtaining information that they shouldn't have access to (security of data) and the claims of these meters emitting unsafe radio frequency emissions. He does not find what is online to be credible about these Smart meters. In his research and knowledge, he stated that internet routers put out far more RF emissions than a Smart meter. Smart meters put out extraordinarily low power levels and they are not hazardous.

It is Mr. Parenti's goal to make sure the public understands the science behind these Smart meters and why the district supports these meters. Mr. Parenti stated that his summary counters some of the arguments on the web that are trying to stop the spread of Smart Meters. He finds those statements not credible at all and his document counters those arguments.

Mr. Allen emailed several of the surrounding towns asking them if they offer an opt-out program. The town of Lincoln responded with their opt-out program (see email enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners).

Mr. Allen stated that as of today he has not received any information from Ms. Friedrichs regarding other opt-out programs as she had stated she would provide when at the January 29th open meeting. The Commissioners agree that the District staff can come up with a recommendation and present it to the Commissioners at the next meeting on February 26th.

Ms. Bates mentioned that there are 17 customers that still have not had the old Trace meters replaced with current Badger Orion water meter.

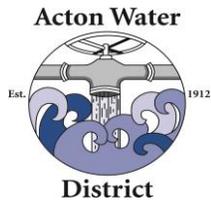
Other Old Business:

1. Update on Solar Program: Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he, Matt Mostoller, Environmental Manager, and Counselor Bassett have a meeting with Gro Solar and their Counsel on Wednesday, February 14th to discuss a temporary access agreement to both 16 Knox Trail and 62 Lawsbrook Road for assessment purposes. This access agreement is prior to the lease being finalized.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Letters of Support to State Legislators for Bill 1123 "Authorizing Municipal Use of the Prudent Investor Standards".

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Mr. Allen stated that this Bill is being sponsored by the Massachusetts Collector and Treasurer Association. If this bill passes, there will be more flexibility to manage the Grace Fund per "Prudent Investor Standards". Mr. Allen stated that both the District Treasurer and District Finance Committee have sent letter of support to the local delegates, and recommended that the Commissioners send a letter supporting passage of this bill.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve these letters of support to State Legislators for Bill 1123 "Authorizing Municipal Use of the Prudent Investor Standards". Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM and it was unanimously approved.