

Water Supply District of Acton

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

Agenda: Comments from Citizens
 Approve Minutes of January 25, 2010 Meeting

NEW BUSINESS

Resident from 1 Sandas Trail Requesting Abatement of Bill
Reserve Fund Transfer Request

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Potential Land Acquisition at 60 Lawsbrook Road
Update on Christofferson Well Replacement Investigation
2010 Water Rate and Fee Increase Discussion

Executive Session

Minutes of February 22, 2010 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti, Phillips, and Stuntz, District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary Jo Bates, District Counsel, Mary Bassett, Commissioners Secretary Lynn Protasowicki. Moderator, Richard O'Brien; Finance Committee members Dave Butler and Charles Bradley. Also in attendance: George Johnston representing ACES, and Barry Rosen of The WLMAC

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M.

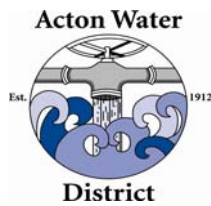
Comments from Citizens

Mr. Phillips informed the Board that he recently attended a conference on behalf of the company that he works for and spoke with a company that created a new filtration system that works as a centrifugal system. He stated that many municipalities are using the system. It's a efficient system utilizing anything greater than 10 psi. Mr. Phillips stated that the company would be delighted to speak with Mr. Allen about their system and how it works.

Approve Minutes of January 25, 2010

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2010 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of approving the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS



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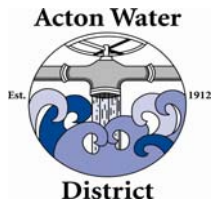
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Resident from 1 Sandas Trail Requesting Abatement of Bill

Peter and Donna Krug of 1 Sandas Trail attended this evening's meeting to request an abatement of their water bill. Mr. Krug presented to the Commissioners the chronology/background of the leak and in addition a PowerPoint presentation which provided the reasoning behind their request for the abatement. In mid-April 2009, Mr. Krug received a water bill which indicated their water usage had more than doubled from the previous billing period. He immediately notified the District that something was wrong and requested that the meter be read again. It was determined that there was a very low leak. The meter would continue to move slowly even when the water was shut off at the house. He and Stephan Peterson, Water Superintendent, discussed some possible options to locate the leak and potential solutions. Late April, 2009 Mr. Krug contacted American Leak Detection who recommended they wait for an increase in water flow to locate the leak (at least a 50% increase). On April 29, 2009, the Krug's received a letter from Mr. Allen following up on the meeting with Stephan Peterson. The letter stated that due to the degrading nature of the service line, and the potential for future leakage, Mr. Allen recommended that they consider replacing the entire line between the meter pit and their home. In July 2009, Mr. Krug received their water bill which indicated that the leak had increased. The water metered was almost double the April bill or three times their average July bill usage from previous two years (they had their 50% increase they were waiting for). He contact American Leak Detection regarding the increased flow and to come and locate the leak. The ALD used a combination of sound technology and helium gas detection but the leak remained hidden. From July through September 2009 he monitored the flow at the pit meter with no visible change noticed. He continued to monitor the pit meter approximately every two weeks during September, October and November until the cover to the pit meter froze in late November/early December. He stated that there was no visible change in the leak flow rate and that water flow and pressure remained the same. In December, 2009 he contacted American Leak Detection to return to find the leak and numerous contractors to develop a work plan and proposal for the repair. In late December/early January 2010 American Leak Detection identified the probable area of the leak to be between the driveway and a tree in an island surrounded by the driveway. On January 8, 2010 a new water line and a curb stop were installed to replace approximately 100 feet of existing pipe which fixed the leak; replacing three splices with new 200 psi solid pipe sleeved through the existing pipe for added protection. The repair was approved by the Water Department on January 11, 2010. The leak turned out to be seepage at a splice in the water pipe. The pipe and clamps were intact and showed no exterior signs of deterioration. The very sandy soil conditions allowed the water to seep straight down. No water ever made it to the surface; no wet soil was located until digging within two linear feet of the splice and within six inches above it. There were no signs of erosion around the pipe.

Mr. Krug went onto state that the water was never "lost" that it remained within the aquifer. He asks that there should be equal treatment of District's customers (meter pit vs. standard meter). He continues on to ask, "Why is One Sandas Trail being billed?" He identified the water was leaking; actively monitored and sought location to repair; the leak was identified at a splice; and the cause was unknown.

Mr. Parenti was very impressed with Mr. Krug's due diligence and presentation. Mr. Stuntz stated that he doesn't have a problem with allowing the abatement as long as the pit meter if removed and replaced with a standard meter inside the home. Mr. Phillips recommended that the removal of the pit



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meter become an action item. Mr. Allen stated that he and Mr. Krug will discuss next steps for abatement to happen.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request

Mr. Allen stated to the Commissioners that a request was put through with the Finance Committee to transfer \$40,500 to four different accounts. Mr. Allen presented to the Commissioners a summary of the four different accounts and how the funds will be appropriated.

1. Clean & Rehab Wells (\$10,000): this account was expended more rapidly than anticipated due to an elevated level of unanticipated mechanical issues at Scribner, Clapp-Whitcomb and Conant II wells. The request for a transfer is based on the necessity to rehabilitate the Assabet 1A & IIA wells and remedy mechanical issues, replacement of the entire pumping assy. For Assabet 1A and electric motor for Assabet IIA.
2. Engineering (\$10,000): this account was expended also more rapidly than anticipated due to the need to supplement the Main St./Coughlin/Taylor & Huckleberry water main improvement. The service changeover work that was not included in the initial contract required engineering support to coordinate logistics. This expense was unknown initially, but the plan was to support this out of the "Engineering" operating budget. The transfer is to accommodate getting the proposed Arlington Street water main improvement to bid. There is an article in the proposed warrant for the construction management aspect of this project.
3. Meters (\$15,000): due to the current level of meter upgrades that we are experiencing, it is necessary to transfer this amount to upgrade equipment from estimates in the last round of meter reading. There have been letters sent out to the impacted accounts, and in order to procure the inventory necessary to support the impending appointments for upgrades, this transfer is required. In the forthcoming operating budget, the proposed amount for the "Meters" line item has been appropriately increased to sustain the improvement program.
4. Indian Village Water Main Improvement (\$5,500): this amount represents the 1% retainage from the project that was completed in 2008. The contract amount was expended due to a cost escalation in hot top mix causing the paving aspect of the project to be more expensive than was anticipated. This was a curb-to-curb resurfacing of Seneca Road, Oneida Road, and part of Mohawk Drive after the water main upgrade was completed. This transfer will be necessary to pay of the contractor, Proia Construction, and close out the contract.

Mr. Parenti moved accept the transfer \$40,500 to these four different accounts. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in all in favor.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that due to an auto accident that one of the District's Operators was in a Ford Ranger was totaled. The District received \$12,600 from the insurance company. Mr. Allen stated that Acton Ford Dealership is selling a 2010 Ranger for \$23,000. Mr. Allen would like to purchase this vehicle and requests from the Commissioners to utilize the insurance funds and supplement the remaining cost out of reserve funds.



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Mr. Parenti moved to use the insurance funds to purchase the vehicle. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Potential Land Acquisition at 60 Lawsbrook Road

Due to Mr. Phillips not being present at the January 25, 2010 Board meeting, Mr. Allen explained to Mr. Phillips the reasoning why they should not move forward on the land acquisition at 60 Lawsbrook Road.

Mr. Parenti moved to accept not to proceed with the acquisition of 60 Lawsbrook Road. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in all in favor.

Update on Christofferson Well Replacement Investigation

Mr. Allen stated to the Commissioners that the first test well was drilled and the conditions were not favorable. There is significant concentration of nitrates found at the first test well. Based upon discussions with the contractor, a new test site will be moved to the Northeast where geo-probing will be done.

2010 Water Rate and Fee Increase Discussion

Mr. Allen presented to the Commissioners the proposed 2010 water rate increase models with Proposal A having the restructured thresholds. Based upon the new numbers it was found that there was still a \$100,000 shortage if the Commissioners approved Proposal A. It was decided that Proposal B should be the new increase.

Proposal B Increase: Add \$15 customer charge per bill per unit AND 4% rate increase / 6% increase over 2000 cubic feet (cf)

	WINTER	SUMMER
	\$15.00	\$15.00
0-2000 cf	0.030	0.036
2001-4000 cf	0.033	0.042
4001-6000 cf	0.045	0.053
Over 6000 cf	0.054	0.063
Municipal	0.032	0.032

Mr. Parenti moved to accept Proposal B and the upgrade of fee structure. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in all in favor.



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The Commissioners entered into executive session, by a roll call vote, at 9:14 p.m. and ended the session at 9:55 p.m. They resumed the regular meeting to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Parenti, seconded by Mr. Stuntz and was unanimously approved.