

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

February 23, 2009

Agenda:       Comments from Citizens  
                  Approve Minutes of January 26, 2009 Meeting  
                  Approve Minutes of February 9, 2009 Meeting

**OLD BUSINESS**

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant Construction

**NEW BUSINESS**

Meeting and Discussion with Senator Jamie Eldridge

Minutes of February 23, 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, Environmental Manager Jane Ceraso, and Finance Committee Members Charles Bradley and David Butler. Representing the WLMAC were John Cipar, Charles Olmstead, and Barry Rosen. Also attending tonight's meeting were George Johnston and Mary Michelman representing ACES and Ann Sussman from the Design Review Board. Senator Jamie Eldridge was the guest at tonight's meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 P.M.

**Comments from Citizens**

Ann Sussman, Chairperson of the Design Review Board, introduced herself to the Commissioners and stated that she was impressed with the work that they do. She said that the Design Review Board looks at commercial permits in the Town of Acton, which consists of mostly installation of parking lots and that the board is looking into the by-laws for low impact development. She stated that the Design Review Board meets twice a month in the Acton Town Hall. She asked if the Commissioners would be interested in reading draft revisions to the town's Zoning By-Law and Mr. Phillips responded in the affirmative. Ms. Sussman will send an email to Mr. Allen.

## **Approve Minutes of January 26, 2009 and February 9, 2009**

Mr. Phillips moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2009 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of approving the minutes.

Mr. Parenti moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on February 9, 2009 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Update on Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant Construction**

Mr. Phillips began the discussion with the issue of lighting for the Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant. He gave an overview of the LED lighting from CREE in North Carolina that was presented at a conference that he attended. The current plan is to install high intensity fluorescent (HIF) light fixtures. Mr. Phillips said that he would like to avoid the mercury issue and stated that LED lighting isn't as insulting to the environment and is more efficient, lasting 5-10 times longer. He also said that the expense would be more up front, but because they are more energy-efficient, lower operating costs would enable a payback timeframe of only approximately two years. Mr. Parenti will discuss this lighting with the personnel at Lincoln Laboratory. Mr. Allen said that he will approach the engineers with this new information. It was noted that Ms. Ceraso had worked with NSTAR at the beginning of this project regarding energy efficiency.

Mr. Allen gave the Commissioners an update on the Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant and supplied them with one progress photograph of the metal roof. He said that the building is enclosed, the Zenon filtration equipment is on-site, some insulation and wallboard have been installed, and the plumbing in the basement is approximately 60% completed. Mr. Allen stated that the temperature will need to be over 30 degrees before final concrete pouring can be done. Currently, the building is being heated by space heaters for the 30-40 workers who are at the site daily. Mr. Allen suggested that he take the Commissioners on a tour of the plant this coming Saturday, and they all agreed to participate.

Four Acton Water District Operators visited the Seekonk and Walpole Zenon filtration sites and spoke with the personnel regarding their treatment plants. Mr. Allen stated that he felt this was a beneficial trip. The Acton Water District personnel will have manufacturing training; no state specific training is required.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Meeting and Discussion with Senator Jamie Eldridge**

Prior to the arrival of Senator Jamie Eldridge, the Commissioners discussed the three "shovel ready" projects which include:

1. Main Street
2. Coughlin Rd/Taylor St/Huckleberry Ln
3. Arlington Street

Senator Eldridge handed out to the Commissioners a list consisting of three bills that he has filed that would assist the District with the issues of concern to them. It also stated that this is supported by the Mass Water Works Association (MWWA). Senator Eldridge stated that he is interested in protecting the water supply; he spoke regarding the meeting he attended this evening with the Town Selectmen which included questions from residents on sewer expansion in the West Acton area.

Mr. Allen described to Senator Eldridge the three water “shovel ready” projects the Acton Water District would like to submit. The first project would be replacing the water main on Main Street which would consist of capping off and retiring the current 6 inch main and connecting to the 12 inch main. The second project would be for Coughlin Rd/Taylor St/Huckleberry Ln to connect to Main Street as currently some of these lines run through residential property. The third project consists of replacing the water main on Arlington Street. Mr. Allen described how there have been frequent water main breaks in the area between Freedom Farm Road and Hayward Road. The main would be replaced through the installation of ductile iron main or high density polyethylene (HDPE) using directional drilling technology.

Senator Eldridge asked Mr. Allen if the Acton Water District has gone through the Board of Selectmen and Mr. Allen’s response was that they have not. Senator Eldridge stated that he intends on writing a letter advocating these projects for the AWD and would like to have the projected costs for these three projects included in the letter. Mr. Allen said that the Acton Water District will email Senator Eldridge the projected costs.

Senator Eldridge discussed the water related bills which consists of the following:

1. An Act Relative to Water Meter Testing Fees – Currently the water utility is limited to a three dollar maximum fee to be charged for testing water meters. This legislation would discourage frivolous meter reading challenges and yet would preserve water consumers’ rights to make responsible challenges to their bills. This Act would insure that such a challenge is properly implemented and, where the meter tests accurate, that the water utility is properly reimbursed for such testing.
2. An Act Relative to Interference with Water Company Meters - The current penalty for tampering with water company meters is limited to one hundred dollars. This legislation will allow punishment by a fine of triple the amount of damages up to one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year or both.
3. An Act to Restore the Clean Environment Fund – This bill will reestablish a separate fund into which the proceeds from all unredeemed bottle bill deposits collected are deposited. The deposits shall be used solely for programs and projects to manage solid waste and protect the environment. Not less than ten percent of the amount deposited in the fund each year would be used by DEP’s Drinking Water Program for administration and implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

He also discussed “An Act to Establish a Water Infrastructure Finance Commission” which would create a 17 person commission to develop a comprehensive, long-range infrastructure finance plan for the Commonwealth. The Commission will investigate water infrastructure needs as they relate to existing and available funding and make recommendations for meeting any unfunded needs identified by the Commission.

### **Other Discussions with Senator Eldridge**

Mr. Phillips discussed the Kennedy-Marshall Treat Plant and stated that this is the largest single construction project ever undertaken by the Acton Water District. Mr. Allen and Ms. Ceraso discussed the District's water withdrawal limit of 1.92 million gallons per day and they spoke regarding a drought that affected the Town of Acton a few years ago. At that time, the AWD asked residents not to water lawns, and the response created a 36% drop in water usage. Mr. Allen and Ms. Ceraso described the washing machine/low-flow toilet rebate program that the Acton Water District is currently offering which began in January 2009.

Ms. Sussman asked if the Town sets limits on growth in Acton and Mr. Phillips responded with no. Senator Eldridge questioned if there are bans on further building in other surrounding towns and Mr. Stuntz responded with yes. Ms. Ceraso stated that during the W.R. Grace period, the water supply was down by 35% and that the Town of Acton did have a ban on building at this time.

The WLMAC informed Senator Eldridge of some of their findings/concerns that are included in their report. They also stated that the report is located on the Acton Water District's website.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms. Michelman informed the Commissioners that there will be a conference call with W.R. Grace tomorrow, Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Ceraso and Mr. Allen will be participating in that conference call.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.