

# Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
April 26, 2010

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The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2010 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Ron Parenti.

Present: Commissioners Ron Parenti, Len Phillips, and Stephen Stuntz, District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary Jo Bates, District Counsel, Mary Bassett, Environmental Manager Matthew Mostoller, Commissioners Secretary Lynn Protasowicki. Finance Committee members Bill Kingman. Also in attendance: Chuck Olmstead and John Cipar representing WLMAC and Mary Michelman of ACES.

## A. Comments from Citizens

Mr. Olmstead, representing WLMAC, stated that salt is a topic in which all WLMAC members are concerned. They are concerned about the high levels of salt in well water. Could the road salting influence the wells? They would like to establish why the levels are high along Rte 27 and Rte 111. The wells are tested every two months. If the data shows that salt is high, would the town take action and reduce the road salting? Mr. Allen stated that salt testing is done annually. Mr. Olmstead is looking for a trend (does high salt due to a certain season?). Mr. Stuntz recommends that more testing should take place to see how much salt is in the water. In addition it was mentioned that WLMAC can go to State and let them know of these high salt areas, that the problem needs to be addressed, and what will the State do about it.

Mr. Mostoller mentioned that the town of Cambridge has reduced salt areas near the reservoir.

The Whitcomb Well has the highest levels of salt in Acton at 76 mg/liter.

Ms. Michelman of ACES informed that Commissioners that on Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at the DPW Yard in Acton the town will be accepting unwanted medication bottles and needles.

Mr. Mostoller informed the Commissioners that on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Acton Town Library he will be presenting to the public the different water resources in the town of Acton.

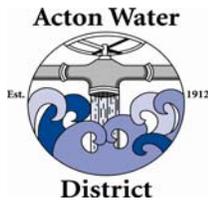
## B. Approval of Minutes from March 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on March 29, 2010 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes as modified.

## C. New Business

### SBA Representative for Nagog Hill Land Lease Discussion

Mr. Peter Fales, SBA Communications representative, reviewed with the Commissioners the proposal for the wireless telecommunications facility to be developed at 287 Nagog Hill Road. He stated that SBA is expanding and improving the network coverage in the area of Acton and this location has been identified as a potential site. He asked the Commissioners if this proposal would be something that they would approve. The Commissioners stated that an RFP needs to be created and then the District will hold a meeting to gain approval from town voters. The Commissioners stated that they will need to see a survey of the land/engineering drawings to identify the site. Mr. Allen stated that he will continue to speak with John Markus Pinard the Real Estate Developer from Centerline Communications, agent for SBA Communications.



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## Mike Geis of 8 Tuttle Drive

Mr. Geis of 8 Tuttle Drive in Acton spoke to the Commissioners with regard to the potential impact of poorly functioning septic systems in his neighborhood. As part of that discussion, Mr. Geis presented two PowerPoint slides showing nitrate and e. coli concentration data collected in 2008 from sampling wells throughout Acton. Nitrate levels measured on Tuttle Drive were about 3 mg/l, which is somewhat higher than the average level for Acton. The e. coli measurements for that area were comparable to those found elsewhere in Town.

Mr. Geis and his neighbors are currently investigating the benefits and cost of connecting to the Town's sewer system, and the potential impact on ground water has been a prominent part of those discussions. He asked the Commissioners if they felt that the nitrate levels measured in his neighborhood represent a threat to the District's water supply. Mr. Parenti stated that this is a complex question that would require further study, and recommended that WLMAC assist in the investigation of this issue.

## Board Re-Alignment and Annual Appointments

The following appointments were made by the Commissioners of the Water Supply District of Acton:

District Counsel	Mary E. Bassett
Accountant	Maureen Mara
Treasurer/Collector	Mary J. Bates
Assistant Treasurer	Christopher Allen
Finance Committee Member	William Kingman
Recording Secretary:	Lynn Protasowicki

The Board nominated and elected Mr. Stephen Stuntz as Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners. Charles Orcutt III will do the swearing in via telephone.

Mr. Parenti moved the appointments and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. All members were unanimously in favor.

## Discussion of Change in Employee Benefits

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that there is a proposed 6% increase in health benefits for FY 2011. AWD will implement a \$10 co-pay for office visits, \$50 ER co-pay, and \$20/\$40/\$70 co-pays for mail order prescriptions. This will eliminate the 6% increase. There was no change to the dental plan. The new rates will go into effect on July 1, 2010.

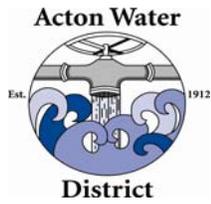
## Other New Business

Counselor Bassett presented to the Commissioners a new MBTE settlement for \$7,000. Mr. Parenti moved to accept the settlement, Mr. Stuntz seconded and all were in favor. The Commissioners then signed the "Free Act & Deed" paperwork.

## **D. Old Business**

### Update on Christofferson Well Replacement Investigation

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he and Matt Mostoller had met with the consultant, Weston & Sampson, and DEP on-site and discussed what was found in the Christofferson well replacement investigation and how to proceed. Barb Kickham of MA DEP, was given data associated with the investigation for her review and preliminary input, and a proposal for course of action. DEP is extremely concerned with the Nitrate concentration being found in the test wells, approximately 8 Parts-per-Million (ppm). Ms. Kickham will



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propose this to the Source Approval Committee of MA DEP to garner their input. She will follow-up with AWD when more information becomes available.

Mr. Mostoller did some research using Acton Board of Health records to find out what might be causing high levels of nitrates in area. He found that two facilities on Craig Road have cesspools installed in 1970s which may not be Title V compliant. One of the cesspools is owned by a business and has shown distress, being pumped 4-times in just one year. The issue the fertilizer being put on the farms in the area and when the soil is tilled it gets into the ground.

Mr. Mostoller did inform the Commissioners that a letter is being drafted to the residents in School Street area notifying them of the district's intent to perform more extensive testing into the source of the Nitrates. This is due to drilling activity that will be occurring adjacent to the residential properties on School Street.

### Execute Contract Documents for Arlington Street Water Main Improvement

The Commissioners signed the contracts with Onyx Transportation INC of Acton, MA.

### **E. Adjourn**

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.