

# Water Supply District of Acton

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

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

Agenda:           Comments from Citizens  
                      Approve Minutes of August 31<sup>st</sup> Meeting

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant  
Update on Water Main Project on Main Street/Coughlin Street/Taylor Road and  
Huckleberry Lane  
WLMAC for Land Acquisition at 60 Lawsbrook Road  
Discussion of Dedication and Naming of New Treatment Plant

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Free Cash Certification  
Update from Finance Committee Meeting on 9/29/2009  
Discussion of District's Sampling of Arsenic  
Discussion of Holiday Function

## Minutes of September 28, 2009 Commissioners Meeting

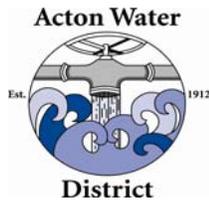
Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti and Stuntz. Also in attendance were District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary Jo Bates, District Counsel Mary Bassett, Commissioners Secretary Lynn Protasowicki. Also in attendance were Richard O'Brien, Town Moderator; Greta Eckhardt and John Cipir representing WLMAC; Mary Michelman and George Johnston representing ACES.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M.

## **Comments from Citizens**

Angela D'Andrea of 5 Robbins Street D'Andrea provided to the Acton Water District a letter with 18 signatures from her neighbors. Ms. D'Andrea attended tonight's meeting on behalf of her neighbors to express their concerns regarding the Stow Street water main breaks that have impacted the color and water quality; water loss frequency; and time without water at her home and her neighbors' homes. Ms. D'Andrea stated that she should not have to pay for water during those periods of time when the water is not running clean and efficiently.

Mr. Allen provided to the Commissioners an update of the situation at Stow Street. In early 2009, a 6" AC water main under a culvert on Stow Street broke. Since there are redundant supplies to the neighborhood, the decision was made to leave the main off-line by isolating it with valves on either side of the culvert, and waiting until fall to repair when the water table was lower. Additionally, the



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Acton Water Department confirmed that there were no imminent plans to work on the culvert. Therefore, it has been determined that trench less technology/directional drilling is the best means for completing the repair.

Mr. Allen proceeded to inform the Commissioners that the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>, there were three recurrent water main breaks in the areas of Stow Street, Billings Street, and Nash Road. This may, or may not, have been impacted by the current hydraulic configuration on Stow Street. However, the area is best served by restoring the piping system to a normal configuration. Mr. Allen has requested quotes from three certified directional drilling companies to complete the project with trench less technology. As of 9/28, Mr. Allen received one quote from Direction Technologies, Inc. for \$15,000. Mr. Allen requests that \$20,000 be transferred from the "Reserve" account to "Emergency Water Main Breaks" account to complete the project. Mr. Allen stated to the Commissioners and to Ms. D'Andrea that the repairs will begin within two weeks.

Mary Michelman representing ACES informed the Commissioners that the Acton Streams Team is hosting a table at the upcoming Oktoberfest in West Acton on 10/3/2009. Their goal is to raise awareness of how to keep unused prescription drugs from being disposed of in public drinking water. They will also have a petition for the public to sign requesting that the state have special drop-off areas for unused medications.

## **Approve Minutes of August 31, 2009**

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on August 31, 2009 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were all in favor of approving the minutes.

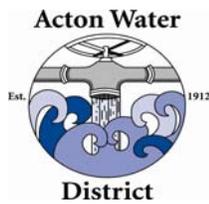
## **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Included in tonight's Commissioners packet is a letter from Waterline Industries explaining the electrical damage that happened at the Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant. Mr. Allen went on to explain to the Commissioners that the treatment facility took a 13KV high voltage hit which caused the suppressor to explode catching fire and melting the wire and plastic parts inside the MCC. The main breaker has been damaged and will need to be replaced. Waterline instructed NStar to remove the meter so that they can repair the damage. Currently the facility is off-line. Waterline will provide to Acton Water District an estimate of how much it will cost to repair and replace the damaged parts.

### **Update on Water Main Project on Main Street/Coughlin Street/Taylor Road and Huckleberry Lane**

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that all homes are now connected and service has been restored to all 15 homes. Mr. Allen has been pleased with the contractor's diligence in getting the work completed on-time and in an efficient manner.



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## **WLMAC for Land Acquisition at 60 Lawsbrook Road**

Enclosed in tonight's Commissioner's packets is a letter from The Water Land Management Advisory Committee (WLMAC) to the Acton Water District regarding the land acquisition of 60 Lawsbrook Road, Acton. Ms. Greta Eckhardt representing WLMAC attended this evening's meeting and stated that at the September 17<sup>th</sup> WLMAC meeting, the committee discussed the benefits and possible downsides of purchasing all or some of the property at 60 Lawsbrook Road. After much discussion and a thorough examination of a map of the area, WLMAC decided to recommend that the AWD seek to sub-divide and purchase a portion of the property. Ms. Eckhardt went on to say that about 1/10 acre or so of the parcel was within Zone 1 of the School Street well fields, WLMAC felt that purchasing approximately 0.5 acres would best serve AWD's need to protect the water supply and would prevent new encroachment.

## **Discussion of Dedication and Naming of New Treatment Plant**

Mr. Allen asked the Commissioners if they had decided on a name for the Kennedy-Marshall Treatment Plant. Mr. Parenti stated that since Mr. Phillips was not present at tonight's meeting that no name can be finalized. Mr. Parenti will talk with Mr. Phillips this week and a name will be determined.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

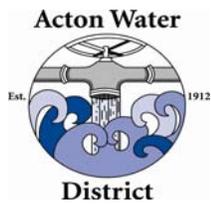
### **Free Cash Certification**

In this evening's packet to the Commissioners was a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue to the District Accountant, The Prudential Committee/Commissioners. The letter states that based upon the un-audited Balance sheet submitted by the Acton Water District, that the MA Dept of Revenue (DOR) certifies that the amount of unavailable funds or "free cash" as of July 1, 2009 for the Acton Water District is \$1,079,518. Ms. Bates stated to the Commissioners that this was exactly what she anticipated. Ms. Bates also informed the Commissioners that, notwithstanding the DOR's prior position that the District could hold the MTBE settlement funds in a "receipt reserved for appropriation" account, the DOR now required that the District, by June 30, 2010 account for those funds as "free cash," appropriate the funds in a warrant article or appropriate the funds by warrant article into a stabilization fund.

## **Update from Finance Committee Meeting on 9/29/2009**

Mr. Dave Butler representing the Finance Committee spoke to the Commissioner's this evening requesting approval for Mr. Allen to open-up discussions with Senator Eldridge regarding the prudent investor rule for both the Grace Fund and MTBE Fund.

## **Discussion of District's Sampling of Arsenic**



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Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the District currently tests all of the finished water entry points to the distribution system on a 3-year schedule for Arsenic. Additional monitoring is done on raw water at the Scribner, Lawsbrook, and Christofferson wells. This is done as part of the Inorganic Contaminants (IOCs) suite utilizing appropriate EPA methodologies. Mr. Allen stated during a quick review of results dating back to 1992 does not show any detections of Arsenic in the raw or finished water. He went on to state that in this area Arsenic is naturally occurring groundwater but is most prominent in bedrock wells.

Federal and State drinking water regulations do not address “heavy metals” as a specific group. Based on what are generally accepted as heavy metals, Mr. Mostoller has broken them down in terms of drinking water regulation. The District currently tests the following compounds on the schedule indicated below:

Lead and Copper – once every 3 years at customer taps and schools

Inorganic Compounds – once every 3 years at treated water entry points to distribution system

Antimony

Arsenic

Beryllium

Cadmium

Chromium

Mercury

Nickel

Thallium

Radionuclides – screening analysis done every 3 years, speciation would be conducted based on screening results

Uranium

Secondary Contaminants – annual testing is recommended at each treated entry point to the distribution system

Copper

Iron

Manganese

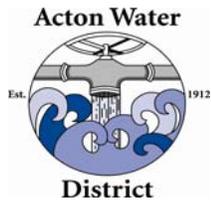
Silver

Zinc

Historic sampling has shown detectable levels of nickel, lead, copper, cadmium, aluminum, arsenic, iron, manganese, and zinc. Specific detections in any given monitoring period would be reported in the annual Consumer Confidence Report.

## **Discussion of Holiday Function**

Mr. Allen proposed to the Commissioners two dates for the holiday function, December 7<sup>th</sup> or December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stuntz and Mr. Parenti stated that this was a good function for the District to have and that both dates work for them. Mr. Parenti suggested that reservations should be made to secure the location and date.



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Mr. O'Brien, Town Moderator, would like the District to forego hosting a holiday party this year and instead make donations to public charities.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Water Infrastructure Finance Commission Passed**

Enclosed in tonight's Commissioner's packet is a brief overview from the Massachusetts Waste Water Association (MWWA) reporting that on July 28<sup>th</sup> the House and Senate voted to override Governor Patrick's veto of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission. This Commission will look at the water infrastructure need in the Commonwealth and the gap between existing funding and need; develop mechanisms for additional funding; provide mechanisms for improvements in the handling and management of water infrastructure; examine potential threats to public health and safety from existing shortfalls; recommend ways water suppliers and municipality can meet operational and maintenance requirements and capital improvements over the next 25 years; examine full accounting systems and enterprise funding; asset management and best management practices.

### **Internal Changes at the Acton Water District**

Mr. Allen reported to the Commissioners that the District now has on-line bill pay through Unibank which means that customers can now pay their water bills on-line. On Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, customers will be notified of the new on-line bill pay option.

Ms. Bates informed the Commissioners that the District now has the capability in-house to do check scan. And, the Acton Water District employees will now be offered direct deposit.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.