

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

October 6, 2008

Agenda: Comments from Citizens
 Approve Minutes of September 22, 2008

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Water Treatment Plant Construction
Update on EPA Water Sense Rebate Program

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Perchlorate
Update on Customer Service Survey for Indian Village Project
Discussion of Fall Flushing in West Acton
Update on October Water Billing
Re-schedule October 20, 2008 Meeting

Minutes of October 6, 2008 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti and Phillips. Also in attendance were District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary J. Bates, District Counsel Mary Bassett, Environmental Manager Jane Ceraso, and Moderator Dick O'Brien. Representing ACES was Mary Michelman and from the WLMAC were John Cipar and Greta Eckhardt.

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

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens at tonight's meeting.

Approve Minutes of September 22, 2008

Mr. Parenti moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on September 22, 2008 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were both in favor of approving the minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Water Treatment Plant Construction

Mr. Allen supplied the Commissioners with updated photographs of the Kennedy-Marshall Water Treatment Plant. He stated that a progress meeting took place last week and that the mason will be arriving next Tuesday, October 14, 2008. The Town of Acton Building Department telephoned the Acton Water District today and said that they didn't think that the property was legally owned by the Acton Water District. Ms. Bassett went to the Building Department with a copy of the Order of Taking, as recorded, although a recorded copy of the Order was requested by and faxed to Acton Town Counsel on September 23, 2008. Mr. Allen said that the AWD needs the building permit by next Monday, October 13, 2008.

Mr. Allen gave the Commissioners an update on the construction including that the electrical work is in progress, the Marshall Well will be off line this month until plant start-up in the spring, and the mason has cast a 6 x 6 mock-up wall displaying the brick color and pattern. He stated that the building permit is the critical point and if not obtained by next week, this will delay the contractor.

Update on EPA Water Sense Rebate Program

Mr. Allen discussed the EPA Water Sense Rebate Program that Joanne Bissetta had created for the Acton Water District; which is similar to the Town of Concord's program. Included in the package that was handed out to the Commissioners at tonight's meeting were the applications (clothes washer and toilet) and the flyer including why and how to receive a rebate. The program will run from January 1, 2009 through May 1, 2009. Records will be kept of the residents that have participated in the program and their water meters will be checked to see the actual savings. It was decided that receipts for the clothes washer and toilet must be dated between January 1, 2009 and May 1, 2009 to apply for the rebate and must be on the EPA Water Sense approved list.

Ms. Ceraso will draft a letter that will go out to the residents informing them of the rebate and will forward a copy to Ms. Bassett for her review.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Perchlorate

Mr. Phillips began the discussion with stating that the Federal Government stated last week that the perchlorate level wasn't dangerous, but Mr. Phillips feels that it is and asked "what should we do as a water district"? Ms. Ceraso said that our water supply in the Acton Water District doesn't contain a problem level of perchlorate, but that the Town of Westford has had detections. She stated that the detections of perchlorate in Massachusetts have been caused mostly due to blasting. Ms. Ceraso discussed with the Commissioners a memo that was sent to the Acton Board of Health on November 02, 2004, requesting a regulation that limits blasting compounds to those that do not contain perchlorate. The Acton Board of Health responded to Ms. Ceraso stating that they wouldn't consider regulating perchlorate at this time.

Ms. Ceraso informed the Commissioners that there had been some perchlorate detected in private wells off Braebrook Road after blasting had occurred. A memo was sent to all blasting contractors on May 11, 2005 from Ms. Ceraso, Mr. Deming, and Robert Craig, Acton Fire Chief, requesting them to avoid using perchlorate containing explosive products. The Town of Acton Planning Department occasionally states in the permit that blasting material must not contain perchlorate.

Mr. Parenti questioned what will happen if there are no regulations now and then perchlorate is found and Ms. Ceraso responded that the state is very concerned and that there is a guideline. Mr. Parenti also asked if there are safety concerns with blasting materials not containing perchlorate and Ms. Ceraso responded that some of these alternative materials may be more likely to cause a handling problem. Ms. Michelman asked if the state is still using the same guideline and Ms. Ceraso responded yes, she believes DEP is using 2 parts per billion.

Update on Customer Service Survey for Indian Village Project

Mr. Allen stated that the Acton Water District would like to have a Customer Service Survey available for the entire customer base. A pilot project was created for the residents impacted by the Indian Village project. There are seven questions on the survey which are located on the AWD website. Mr. Allen is hoping the pilot survey will help with evaluating the contractors, traffic, etc. and will also help in updating the database with customer information such as email addresses, phone numbers, etc. A notice will be included in the water bills for residents located Mohawk Drive, Oneida Road, and Seneca Road. The results will be published on the Acton Water District's website.

Discussion of Fall Flushing in West Acton

Mr. Allen stated that the fall flushing began today and will continue for the next few weeks. He discussed the new uni-directional water flushing program used that was developed with the funds that were appropriated at the Annual Meeting. Mr. Parenti asked how the Acton Water District will be able to tell if this process works better and Mr. Allen responded that one thing will be based on better water quality. Ms. Ceraso said that the new flushing program creates less customer complaints and the flushing is done much quicker this way; only takes 5-10 minutes for each sequence. She also said there seems to be less dirty water. Mr. Allen said that North Acton is in progress and the pipes will be flushed prior to the start up of the treatment plant.

Update on October Water Billing

Mr. Allen reviewed the quarterly comparison chart with the Commissioners and discussed the October water billing. It was stated that there was approximately a 25% reduction in sales from the comparison of the October 2007 and October 2008 billings. Mr. Allen stated that this was expected due to the increase in precipitation during the summer season. Ms. Bates said that they will be concerned if this was to be the case again next year and they would possibly be looking closely at a rate increase. She also said that the Acton Water District is not concerned at this point as this was very unusual.

Re-schedule October 20, 2008 Meeting

The Commissioners meeting that was scheduled for October 20, 2008 has been rescheduled and the scheduled meetings for November have been changed. The following are the Commissioners

meeting dates for the remainder of October and the month of November:

Monday, October 27, 2008

Monday, November 10, 2008

Monday, November 24, 2008

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.