

# Water Supply District of Acton

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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
January 9, 2012

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The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2012 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Leonard Phillips.

Present: Commissioners Leonard Phillips (Chairman), Stephen Stuntz, and Ronald Parenti. Chris Allen, District Manager; Mary Jo Bates, District Treasurer/Collector; Mary Bassett, District Counselor; Matthew Mostoller, Environmental Manager; Lynn Protasowicki, Commissioners Secretary; David Butler & Chuck Bradley, and Bill Gutlein, Finance Committee Members; Dick O'Brien, District Moderator; and Barry Rosen representing both WLMAC & WRAC.

## **A. Comments from Citizens**

No comment from citizens at tonight's meeting.

## **B. Approval of Minutes from December 5th Meeting**

Mr. Phillips moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on December 5, 2011 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

## **C. Old Business**

*Follow-up from Homeowner at 253D School Street on Abatement Request and Findings.*

Mr. Michael Maimone of 253A School Street was present at tonight's meeting.

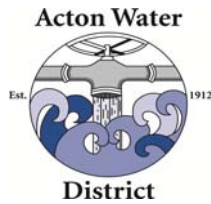
In this evening's packet to the Commissioners is a copy of a letter from Mr. Villasenor, resident of 253D School Street and an estimate from a contractor for replacing water main service for all 4 homes that are currently independently connected to individual 1" service lines. The quote to install a water service for all 4 residences with 4" ductile iron is \$52,000 versus replacing 600 feet of 1" poly for just 253D School Street (Mr. Villasenor's residence) is \$16,800. Also enclosed in the Commissioner's packet is a letter from Mr. Allen responding to Mr. Villasenor's letter. Mr. Allen stated that he would provide Mr. Villasenor with a "refrigerator magnet" that allows the customer to read their water meter remotely. The magnet costs \$144.00 and Mr. Allen would provide this to Mr. Villasenor at no cost if he commits to a payment plan for the current balance due.

Mr. Maimone stated that he did speak with Mr. Villasenor that night before and was provided the estimate. Mr. Maimone asked Mr. Allen if there are any other devices that can read water meters remotely. And, if there are any which can be hard-wired. Mr. Allen stated that hard wiring may have a range limitation of less than the 600 feet that is needed. Additionally, the meter transmitter, or transponder, is not rated for exposure to weather. It is made for installation inside a residence. Furthermore, in order to hard wire there would need to be trenching done which costs. Mr. Maimone liked the idea of the "refrigerator magnet".

Commissioners all agreed that they wouldn't make the final decision tonight about the abatement but did state the following:

1. Would abate if Mr. Villasenor replaces his line.

All documents referred to in meeting minutes are available for inspection at the office of Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-9107.



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2. Would prefer to see that all 4 lines were replaced due to their age of the line and knowing that there has been a leak in two of the homes lines.
3. Recommend that Mr. Villasenor look for 2 more estimates for cost comparison.

## Review and Discussion of DRAFT Budget and Warrant for Fiscal Year 2013.

In the Commissioners' packets are the draft warrants for review and final approval. Counselor Bassett stated that there are some minor changes to be made to the front page. The location of the Annual Meeting will not be held at the library this year instead it will be held in the Town Hall. Mr. Allen stated that there is one new article to be added to the warrants. The article is to appropriate \$150,000 for two consecutive pilot studies of the Assabet and School Street wells. The money will come from the W.R. Grace Receipt Reserve for Appropriation Fund. This article was discussed with the finance committee and they were all in agreement that it should be put on the warrant.

The Commissioners reviewed each article on the warrant. Mr. Phillips moved to accept the warrant and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the warrant for fiscal year 2013 with the additional article for the pilot studies.

## Update on Plans for Centennial Celebration.

In the Commissioners' packets is a copy of the printing and design estimates for the AWD 100 Year brochure. Mr. O'Brien provided an update to the Commissioners on the plans for the Centennial Celebration. The graphic artist is Matthew Tyndall of Tyndall Design. The proof of the Centennial brochure was presented to the Commissioners for them to take a look at. The committee will be meeting on Tuesday, 1/10 for a status update. The open house for the South Acton Water Treatment Facility is to be held on May 5, 2012. They are trying to secure a guest speaker to talk about groundwater and hydrogeology. There will be activities to draw young families to the open house. Mr. O'Brien informed the Commissioners that there are approximately 30 different organizations in the Town of Acton to which outreach is planned with information about the Centennial. The committee is finalizing the Centennial brochure to give to people. And, they are thinking, as a giveaway, water bottles with the new AWD Centennial logo printed on them. Mr. O'Brien also stated that a new award is being created for, "Award for Citizen Showing Support for District" to observe commitment to environmental stewardship and protection of the water supply and AWD's mission.

## **D. New Business**

No New Business was discussed at this evening's meeting.

## **E. Executive Session**

Mr. Phillips moved to go into executive session to discuss threatened or pending litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and then to reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stuntz and roll call vote was unanimously taken to go into executive session for the stated purpose.

The open meeting reconvened, and Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

**Executive Session Minutes**  
Commissioners Meeting  
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Executive Session Minutes  
January 9, 2012

The Commissioners voted unanimously by a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. to discuss pending or contemplated litigation as remaining in open session would prejudice the District position with respect to the matter. In attendance were Commissioners Len Phillips and Ron Parenti, District Manager Chris Allen, Environmental Compliance Manager, Matt Mostoller and District Counsel Mary Bassett.

Attorney Bassett updated the Commissioners on the status of the case. A hearing is scheduled for January 10, 2012, which should be the final hearing before the judge makes a decision on whether or not to grant a preliminary injunction. The DEP weighed in on its objection to monitoring wells in the Zone 1 as solution to the threat of contamination from AS&G. Regardless of the outcome of the motion for a preliminary injunction, the case will process on the underlying issue of title to the disputed area.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the executive session and moved to reconvene in open session at 10:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parenti and on a roll call vote was unanimously approved.