

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
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ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

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Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA
Monday, January 29, 2018

A. Comments from Citizens

B. Approve Meeting Minutes of January 8th, 10th, & 16th

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review and Approve FY '19 Operating Budget and Warrant Articles
 - FY '19 Budget and Warrant articles recommended for approval by the District's Finance Committee at their open meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2018.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ron Parenti, Leonard Phillips, Stephen Stuntz
District Manager: Chris Allen
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
District Moderator: Richard O'Brien

Green Acton: Lucy Kirshner, 35 Parker Street

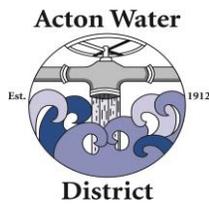
Citizens:

Jon Benson, 21 Deacon Hunt Drive
Paul Elliot, 367 Arlington Street
Erika Amir-Lin, 534 Old Stone Brook
Terra Friedrichs, 627 Mass Ave

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM on Monday, January 29, 2018 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Phillips.

A. Comments from Citizens:

Ms. Friedrichs expressed her concern over the District mandating new Smart metering technology be installed into customers homes. Her concerns are with the health risks and the amount of radiation exposure that comes from these meters. Mr. Allen mentioned that a District operator has gone to other customers' homes with a Radio Frequency (RF) meter to demonstrate that their radiation exposure coming from the Transponder is extremely low compared to other appliances, microwave, cordless phones, and cellular phones. She is requesting that the District offer an opt-out program. Mr. Phillips appreciates her concern and agrees that no-one should have to have a radio meter installed into their home if they do not want one. Ms. Friedrichs was happy to hear this and suggested that she will put together a group to work on a proposal to present to District about an opt-out



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program and other meters that could be used. Mr. Phillips did mention that the Smart meter technology is much better more efficient than the current meter that is installed in her home.

Ms. Friedrichs would prefer an analog meter reader. Mr. Allen stated that a remote reading meter with the Trace protocol is what is currently installed in her home and what the District is replacing due to antiquated and unsupported technology. Ms. Friedrichs would ideally like the analog option. Mr. Allen mentioned that the Trace meter reading equipment is failing, the District no longer gets accurate readings from the meters, and there are no replacements to be found, which is the reason that the District chose to upgrade to the current Orion protocol. Both Trace and Orion are Badger Meter proprietary protocols. There are over 8,000 Badger meters in the District's service area. Only 24 Trace units remain.

Mr. Elliot stated that he is here to support Ms. Friedrichs' request and is happy to hear that the District may allow analog readers in the home. He read a piece of a report issued by State of CA about studies associated with Cellular phones' health effects. He stated that there is enough of the unknown that concerns them to not want a Smart reader in their home. However Mr. Elliott did install an Orion reader, but would have opted out if he had the choice. He says the reader is pinging every 6-10 seconds and is concerned about the continuous exposure of RF. Mr. Elliot is happy that the District may allow residents to opt-out.

Mr. Parenti asked Mr. Allen about the option of having a meter reader outside the house. Mr. Allen said it could be done but Ms. Friedrichs does not like the continuous low-power pulses.

Paul Elliot took the RF scanner that the District purchased from him via Amazon.com, as he sells them, placed it next to the one way Orion transmitter, and showed and confirmed that the exposure is very low. The signal strength also tapers off rapidly as you move away from the transponder; and is essentially zero at about 1-foot distance.

Mr. Allen posted a slide from the American Cancer Society (ACS) showing a statement they put out about whether these smart meters cause cancer. And the statement from the ACS says that these meters are not a problem. Mr. Parenti went on to say that other studies have not found any indication that these low RF levels cause health problems nor have seen any other issues.

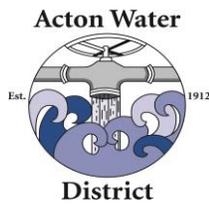
Ms. Friedrichs stated that she will more research and will come back with solutions and present them to the District.

Mr. Parenti stated that the District will need to consider how to execute an opt-out program. Mr. Phillips stated that the District along with the Commissioners needs to come up with operational costs involved in a manually-read meters in opt-out program. Mr. Parenti suggests that information explaining these meters be put onto the District website to help educate the public.

The Commissioners will continue to consider adopting an opt-out policy based on the availability of additional information.

B. Approve Meeting Minutes of January 8th, 10th & 16th:

Mr. Stuntz made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2018. It was seconded by Mr. Phillips and unanimously approved.



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Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the modified minutes of January 10, 2018. It was seconded by Mr. Stuntz and unanimously approved.

Mr. Phillips made a motion to approve the modified minutes of January 16, 2018. It was seconded by Mr. Parenti and unanimously approved.

C. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review and Approve FY '19 Operating Budget and Warrant Articles.

Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is a cop of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and Warrant Articles.

FY' 2019 Budget:

Mr. Allen pointed out a few line items in the budget for the Commissioners.

- Low on demand charges in 2017, the slight drop was due to reduced number of connections.
- Demand fees for 6 month actual in the current fiscal year are more than the predicted \$200K.
- The District's Finance Committee did recommend for approval the FY '19 Budget and Warrant articles.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019. It was seconded by Mr. Phillips and unanimously approved.

Warrant Articles:

Mr. Allen pointed out a few Warrant Articles to the Commissioners.

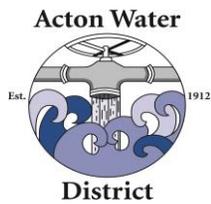
- Article 8: \$300k from the WR Grace Fund for piloting treatment technologies for the Conant I and Conant II wells.
- Article 9: \$500K will be paying down short term debt from the Indian Village water main improvement over the next two fiscal years.
- Article 14, 15 & 16 (funding the revolving fund for mitigation) - adopting the bylaw for the District revolving funds for Mitigation. This fund was established in response to amendment of the state Water Management Act in 2015. The District now charges Mitigation Fees to developers as a Demand Management response to this amendment.

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the modified Warrant Articles for Fiscal Year 2019. It was seconded by Mr. Phillips and unanimously approved.

Other Business:

1. Distribution of the Warrant: Ms. Bates stated that the District has emails for 40% of its customers. She mentioned that last year the District mailed a copy of the warrant articles inside the newsletter to every customer. She wants to know if the Commissioners would like to email those customers that we have emails for and mail to the rest of the customers. The Commissioners stated that they want to continue to mail out the warrant articles with newsletter to all residents.

Ms. Bates informed the Commissioners that the District currently has 370 customers who are completely paperless and 100 customers who have enrolled in autopay for their quarterly water bills.



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2. Nuclear Metals, Inc. (NMI) Update: Mr. Phillips inquired as to the status of NMI. Mr. Allen stated that there is no new information to report at this time. *De maximis* is still extracting water at 20-gallons per minute, and recirculating to the Assabet River in the vicinity of 16 Knox Trail.

3. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he recently visited a 1,4-dioxane pilot in Walpole, MA with the District's consulting engineer, Rich Protasowicki of Wright-Pierce, who committed to sharing the pilot results with Mr. Allen once they are compiled.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM and it was unanimously approved.