

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 27, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- Approve Minutes from 4/13/2026 meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for Assistance 15 Craig Road
- Discuss Requests for Legislative Assistance

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
- Discuss Special District Meeting

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Stephen Stuntz (Chair), Erika Lin, Barry Rosen

Finance Committee: John Petersen

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

District Clerk: Joe Robb

Members of the Public: Jianna Eagar (Office Manager at 15 Craig Road); Ron Parenti, Bill Guthlein, Kim Kastens

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and ensured that everyone could hear and be heard.

Comments from the public

No public comments were made at this time.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

Mr. Stuntz motioned to authorize Commissioner Rosen to sign warrants while meetings are conducted virtually, through the next regularly scheduled meeting. Ms. Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Approve Minutes from 4/13/2026 meeting

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 4/13/2026. Mr. Rosen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Assistance 15 Craig Road

Ms. Eagar came before the Board to request a one-time adjustment to a water bill totaling approximately \$25,000. She explained that the property (15 Craig Road) has been vacant for approximately two years and is currently on the market. While she conducts periodic inspections, a malfunctioning sensor-operated toilet went undetected for a period of time, resulting in excessive water use. Upon notification from the District, a plumber was immediately engaged, and the issue was resolved the same day.

Ms. Eagar stated that the water use was unintentional and provided no benefit to the property, and she expressed concern regarding the financial impact. She requested consideration for a one-time abatement.

The Board discussed the request and noted that the issue was caused by equipment failure and lack of monitoring, rather than a system-related issue. Commissioners expressed concern about setting precedent and the broader impact to ratepayers if such abatements were granted. Staff and Commissioners indicated that while an abatement would not be supported, the District could assist in establishing a payment plan to help manage the balance.

Ms. Lin moved to deny the request for abatement of the bill at 15 Craig Road. Mr. Rosen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Staff will follow up with the property representative to discuss payment plan options.

Discuss Requests for Legislative Assistance

Mr. Mostoller provided updates on ongoing legislative coordination efforts.

He reported continued work with State Representatives Cataldo and Sena, as well as Senator Eldridge, regarding regulatory requirements for bathroom facilities at unmanned water facilities. The District has been pursuing both a waiver through the State Plumbing Board and legislative remedies through the state budget process. Representative Cataldo has agreed to co-sponsor related legislation.

Mr. Mostoller also provided an update on coordination with MassDOT regarding infrastructure concerns at the Piper/Taylor Road and Route 2 crossing. The District has been in communication with Representative Cataldo's office to seek support for both immediate safety-related work and potential long-term infrastructure coordination with planned DOT improvements.

Mr. Godfrey provided an update regarding emergency conditions at the Route 2 intersection, where prior water main breaks led to roadway settlement. A significant sinkhole developed in the travel lane, creating an immediate public safety hazard. MassDOT performed temporary repairs and coordinated with the District on a permanent solution.

Due to the urgency, the District obtained an emergency procurement waiver to allow immediate work without a full bidding process. J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc., the contractor already working with MassDOT at the site, began emergency repair work to excavate and stabilize the affected area.

Mr. Mostoller noted that the work is necessary to eliminate voids beneath the roadway and prevent further sinkhole formation. He also stated that MassDOT has requested full repaving of the intersection, which remains under discussion.

Ms. Lin moved to award the contract for emergency Route 2 road repairs to J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc. of Millbury, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$158,005. Mr. Stuntz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Proceeding this discussion, Mr. Mostoller informed the Board of an upcoming Town of Acton culvert replacement project in the vicinity of 13 Main Street. The project will require temporary shutdown and reconfiguration of a section of water main.

Staff will provide temporary water service to impacted customers while the contractor installs a new main beneath the culvert. Due to required testing and disinfection procedures, the system will temporarily operate with two dead-end configurations.

Mr. Mostoller noted that these temporary conditions may result in minor water quality disturbances, though staff expect impacts to be limited. The Board was notified for awareness in the event of public inquiries.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

No data was available for the meeting.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller provided an operational update on PFAS treatment facilities:

- **North Acton:** The system was brought online following receipt of the remaining carbon media but experienced operational issues and was subsequently taken offline again due to pH concerns impacting our disinfection compliance.
- **Center Acton:** The facility remains offline, with staff working to bring it online in the coming days while addressing issues with the chemical feed system.
- **South Acton:** The facility is operating reliably following adjustments to the equalization basin system. Additional improvements are pending.

Mr. Mostoller also noted that well cleaning activities are underway in South Acton, temporarily reducing available capacity.

In response to questions, staff confirmed that seasonal demand has begun to increase, and the District has relied on storage capacity at the Wampus Hill tank to meet peak demand.

Discuss Special District Meeting

Mr. Mostoller reported that the Special District Meeting was successfully conducted and that the budget was approved. He noted that the meeting received positive feedback but required significant staff effort to prepare and execute.

Mr. Mostoller emphasized that while the outcome was successful, the District has limited staff and resources, and similar efforts in the future would require careful consideration of competing priorities.

Ron Parenti commented that the presentations were clear and effective, and suggested that similar efforts should be made for future meetings to support public understanding.

Mr. Robb reported that attendance at the Special District Meeting was 63 voters, compared to 50 at the Annual Meeting, indicating increased engagement. He also commended the clarity of the presentations.

Commissioners discussed the tone of the meeting, noting that questions from attendees were largely informational, and that voters appeared satisfied with the responses and understanding of the budget.

Mr. Rosen moved to adjourn, Ms. Lin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

The meeting closed at 7:44 p.m.

The next Board of Water Commissioners meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2026.