

Water Supply District of Acton

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Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2012

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

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chairman) and Leonard Phillips
District Manager: Chris Allen
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates
District Counselor: Mary Bassett
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki
Finance Committee Member(s): David Butler & William Guthlein

A. Comments from Citizens

On behalf of Mr. Phillips' wife who attended the Open House on May 5th, she enjoyed the event, learned a lot, was interested in the topics of discussion and now has a better understanding of the drinking water process.

B. Approval of Minutes from April 2nd Meetings

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on April 2, 2012 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes.

C. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Warrant Articles and Special District Meeting for Acceptance of MA State Revolving Fund Approval of South Acton Water Treatment Plant Intended Use Plan.

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is a copy of the special meeting warrant and motion that Counselor Bassett drafted for construction of the South Acton Water Treatment Plant.

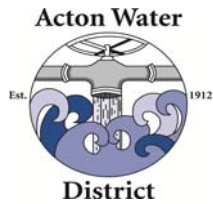
Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the dollar amount on the current warrant will be more than the \$8,900,000. He asked the Commissioners if they would like to wait to find out what the final dollar amount will be or would they like to vote on \$12,000,000 which would be more in the range of the construction of the water treatment plant. Due to the June 30th deadline to accept State Revolving Fund approval, the District will need to approve, by vote, the ability to finance the entire amount applicable to the South Acton Water Treatment Plant project.

Mr. Parenti moved to accept the warrant article on \$12,000,000 for the construction and all related costs of a water treatment facility at the School Street and Assabet well sites in South Acton.

The special district meeting will take place on June 25th for District vote on the warrant article.

Mr. Allen also gave a quick update on the pilot study that is taking place at the School Street well. He stated that the study is going well and is bearing good results. There are fewer nitrates than expected, due to the results of the Christofferson Well replacement study in 2010. The samples for 1-4 dioxane were sent to a lab in New York so results will take a bit more time to get back. Nationally, there are two labs that are certified for Method 522,

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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analysis for 1,4-Dioxane, one in New York and one in California. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will be on-site Friday, May 11, 2012. Mr. Phillips suggested that they look into polypropylene piping, which is easy to work with, unbelievably strong, is very slippery and chemical resistant.

Update on Donation of Potassium Permanganate from DeMaximis.

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is an email from Matthew Mostoller regarding the potassium permanganate donation from DeMaximis. Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the chemical was delivered on March 13, 2012 by O&M, Inc. to the North Acton Water Treatment Plant. There were four 55 lb. containers that were suitable for donation at a value of approximately \$600 vs. the originally proposed amount of 200-lbs at an approximate value of \$1,500. This was due to some of the containers not being sealed properly.

Other Old Business:

Counselor Bassett informed the Commissioners that the deed for the Squirrel Hill property, donated by Christine and Barbara Sweeney, Trustees of the Colonial Realty Trust was received and recorded.

D. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Proposed Changes to Employee Benefits for FY 2013.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners of the proposed changes to employee benefits for fiscal year 2013. The Water District received a \$60,000 credit through Obama Care for early retirees which negated a 5% increase in healthcare. Mr. Allen and Ms. Bates are recommending changing the premium split to 80% employer / 20% employee. The Town of Acton has a 75% employer / 25% employee split currently. They are also considering a new model for new employees hired after July 1st would get a 70% employer / 30% employee split. Mr. Butler recommends that they keep it simple and that whatever is decided that it is available to all employees both new and old.

Planning of Working Group Session.

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that he recently sent an email to Commissioners and Finance Committee suggesting that they continue with the working group sessions which have proved beneficial. He received interest from Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Butler, Mr. Bradley, and Mr. Parenti. Topics that will be discussed include rate increase, and models to fund debt service, etc. Mr. Allen will send email to set-up dates for sessions.

Other New Business:

The Acton Water District received a proclamation from the House of Representatives to commemorate its centennial. The proclamation, signed by State Representatives Cory Atkins and Jennifer Benson, will be hung in the foyer of the office, along with other awards to the District.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Parenti moved to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. 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. Parenti moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Executive Session Minutes
Commissioners Meeting
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Executive Session Minutes
May 7, 2012

The Commissioners voted unanimously by a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session at 9:00 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, District and District Counsel Mary Bassett.

Minutes of Executive Session meetings dated 4/2/12 were reviewed and approved with edits.

Attorney Bassett updated the Commissioners on the status of the Assabet Sand trespass case. An expert in the finding and reading of aerial photographs has been engaged to get historic views of the site and see what the photos show. If the expert, in reading the photographs can help the District's case, the District will use him at trial. Atty. Bassett also advised the Commissioners that the monitoring wells have not been installed and the "contract" that defense counsel sent did not contain a "statement of work," so there is nothing to review at this point. Lastly, District counsel discussed the Notice of Noncompliance that the District received from DEP that requires "water supply area" and "no trespassing" signs to be installed on the border of the Zone 1. Counsel has notified defense counsel of the District intent to install those signs.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the executive session and moved to reconvene in open session at 9:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parenti and on a roll call vote was unanimously approved.