

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

June 11, 2007

Agenda: Comments from Citizens
 Accept Minutes of April 9, May 14th and 21st, 2007

OLD BUSINESS

2007 Budget Status
New Garage Status
FY 2008 Meeting Schedule

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Candidates for Manager Position
Main Street Sidewalk @ Conant I
NEWWA Outreach Program
WPC Utilities Proposal
LWUAC Discussion

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matters

Minutes of June 11, 2007 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti and Stuntz. Also in attendance were District Manager James Deming, District Counsel Mary Bassett, Treasurer/Collector Mary J. Bates, and Finance Committee Member Charles Bradley. The LWUAC Committee included John Cipar, Greta Eckhardt, Paul Malchodi, and Barry Rosen. Also joining the meeting was Barbara Chick from the League of Women Voters and resident Terra Friedrichs.

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 P.M.

The Commissioners meeting minutes from the May 14th and May 21st, 2007 meetings were not approved since all the Commissioners were not present at tonight's meeting. The April 9, 2007 minutes had been accepted at a previous Commissioners meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Main Street Sidewalk @ Conant I

Resident Terra Friedrichs reviewed the Main Street sidewalk plans/proposal with the Commissioners and she is asking to meander the path (have the sidewalk go around some of the trees). She stated that they have an expert from Boston that deals with this type of issue and that this portion of the sidewalk is in the area of the AWD land. Mr. Deming said that the AWD has never had any conversations regarding the removal of trees in this area and that a temporary easement was given by the AWD for work being done in front of the well.

Mr. Parenti asked Ms. Friedrichs if any residents were opposed to this proposal and her response was no.

Mr. Deming said that the AWD needs to preserve the 400 foot radius around the well according to the DEP and that the street is already within the 400 feet at this well. He said that this well was grandfathered in and that there are two areas that there is a concern with the Commissioners.

Ms. Friedrichs has agreed to return with a plan/proposal per the Commissioners request.

Ms. Friedrichs also informed the Commissioners of an affordable housing lottery that will take place. The housing is located on Route 2A.

OLD BUSINESS

2007 Budget Status

Mr. Deming informed the Commissioners that a transfer will be needed from the Reserve Fund to the Auto Mech/Fuel fund. A meeting will be set up before June 30, 2007 with the Finance Committee to make this transfer.

New Garage Status

Mr. Deming updated the Commissioners on the new garage and informed them that paving (binder) will take place this week. The project is almost completed with only the windows and doors that remain to be installed.

FY 2008 Meeting Schedule

It was agreed that there will be one meeting per month for the July and August Commissioners meetings and two monthly meetings for September through December.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Candidates for Manager Position

The discussion on the candidates for the District Manager position didn't occur as all Commissioners needed to be present for the discussion.

NEWWA Outreach Program

The NEWWA has an outreach program that they have been doing for the past two years and would like a few of their officers to meet with the Commissioners during a regular scheduled Commissioners meeting. The director has asked Mr. Deming if they could give a presentation to the Commissioners sometime in the fall. Mr. Deming will give the NEWWA a couple different dates that are available in September.

WPC Utilities Proposal

Mr. Deming said that WPC Utilities is an entity that purchases leases for wireless communication towers and they developed another branch/organization which includes the following three products:

1. Insurance for homeowners water service
2. Insurance for water utilities
3. Great water made better

Mr. Deming told WPC Utilities that he would talk to the Commissioners to see if they had any interest. He also said that this is exactly what the Commissioners were looking to do last November.

WPC Utilities partners with GE at a fixed cost with license plumbers and sells the product at a reduced rate. Their marketing is done as a money maker for water facilities. The homeowner pays for the filter and contracts with WPC Utilities. The consumer would pay a bill to the AWD which a percentage goes to the district and the rest to WPC Utilities.

Mr. Bradley asked if there would be any cost to the district and Mr. Deming responded that there would be no cost. The Commissioners were uncomfortable with the AWD making a profit off of this. Counsel Bassett asked if the AWD would have to go out to bid and Mr. Deming responded that he wasn't sure. Ms. Friedrichs asked what would be the cost of billing and Mr. Deming responded that there would be no cost because it would just be a new line item on the regular bill. She also asked if the AWD could supply a list of recommendations on plumbers and filters and Mr. Deming responded that the AWD can't make recommendations, but can inform residents where to purchase a certain type of filter (not brand names).

No decision was made at tonight's meeting whether to have a meeting with WPC Utilities.

LWUAC Discussion

Ms. Eckhardt began the discussion stating that the LWUAC met last Thursday, June 7,

2007, to prepare for tonight's meeting. She asked the Commissioners whether a transmitted copy of the report has been sent to the Selectman. Mr. Deming responded that this hasn't been done yet and that he thought the LWUAC wanted this to happen during a meeting with the Commissioners and the Selectman. The LWUAC asked to be included in the meeting whenever it takes place.

The LWUAC Committee stated that they had four issues they would like to discuss with the Commissioners at tonight's meeting:

1. Waste Water:

Mr. Rosen asked what the impact of waste water treatment disposal would be if the plant is expanded near the Assabet Well site. He also wondered if Assabet III comes on, will it be in excess of 1300-1500 gallons and Mr. Deming said no; right now it is 700 gallons and possibly would be 1000 gallons combined. Mr. Rosen asked "when Assabet III comes on, will a lot more water be drawn? The response was that 1.9 remains the same and Assabet III will not change where the water comes from.

Mr. Deming felt that it is premature at this point to be doing testing and that they will need DEP's approval. He said that the AWD is concerned, but feels the LWUAC should not be alarmed at this point.

2. Expansion of Paved Services

The LWUAC spoke regarding the expansion of paved services near the AWD Wells located on Main Street. They are concerned about crossing the Zone 1 land. Mr. Stuntz responded to their concern by saying that the expansion is in the Town of Acton's right of way and they will not be on Zone 1. The sidewalk is being built on town property, not on the AWD's land. The AWD gave the Town of Acton a temporary construction easement to be on the AWD's property. It was noted that the District would have to vote if the town needed to install a sidewalk on the AWD's land.

3. Sale of AWD Land

The LWUAC said they had heard that there was a sale of AWD land and Mr. Deming responded that the AWD hasn't agreed to sell land, but have been asked on many occasions. He also said that a vote must take place before selling any of the AWD land.

4. Boxborough Water District

Mr. Cipar informed the Commissioners that the LWUAC is looking into ongoing work done in Boxborough by the Boxborough Water District and that they may want to be a liaison between the Towns of Acton and Boxborough. Mr. Cipar said that this is something the Commissioners may want to consider.

At the end of the discussion with the LWUAC, Mr. Stuntz said that he liked the idea of transmitting a copy of the report and will send a formal letter with the report to the Selectman and Mr. Deming will set up a meeting sometime in September to review the

LWUAC report.

Mr. Rosen asked for a meeting schedule for the LWUAC to meet with the Commissioners and Mr. Stuntz suggested waiting until September when the new District Manager will be on board.

Ms. Friedrichs stated as a concerned citizen that she hopes that the Commissioners will let the LWUAC continue and would like to see the meeting with the Selectman sooner rather than later.

Comments from Citizens

Barbara Chick from the League of Women Voters asked the Commissioners how many resumes were received by the AWD for the District Manger position and Mr. Deming responded with an estimate of 19. Ms. Chick then asked “how many applicants received a first interview?” and the response was 6. Ms. Chick thought that the interviews were in closed session and wanted to know if the follow up interviews will be in open session. Mr. Deming informed her that all of the interviews so far were in open session and the next interviews will be in open session as well. Mr. Deming stated that none of the candidates requested a closed session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners went into Executive Session to consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual. A roll call vote was taken.

The Executive Session concluded at 9:18 p.m.

Mr. Stuntz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.