

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
VIRTUAL MEETING via Zoom
Monday, August 17, 2020 7:00 pm

AGENDA

Comments from Citizens
Approve Minutes of July 13, 2020

NEW BUSINESS:

Request from the Town of Concord for water supply to bus facility off Knox Trail
Vote to approve the local appropriation of \$100,000 for an Asset Management Plan DWSRF-6718
Adopt Memorandum of Understanding for 8 Post Office Square Right-of-Way

OLD BUSINESS:

Appoint one Commissioner to approve Warrants while conducting meetings virtually
Update on Solar Energy projects on Lawsbrook Road & Knox Trail
Update on Central Acton Water Treatment Plant construction project
Communication with the Town of Acton Selectboard
Update of Per-and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Stephen Stuntz, Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen

District Manager: Chris Allen

Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller

District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Finance Committee: David Butler

MIS Coordinator: Robert Murch

Town of Concord: Allen Cathcart, Director, Concord Public Works, John Arena, Jr., Transportation Director, Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle RHS, Dr. Laurie Hunter, Superintendent, Concord Public Schools and Concord-Carlisle RHS.

Also, in attendance, Jim Snyder-Grant, Kim Kastens, Lucy Kirshner, Ronald Parenti, Richard Kelleher, Meghan Doyle, G. Garneau, Andrew Wilkinson

Due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Charles Baker, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was held via a video conference using Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on Monday, August 17, 2020 by Ms. Erika Amir-Lin.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens at this meeting.

Approve Minutes of July 13, 2020 Meeting

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the minutes of July 13, 2020 as presented. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Roll call vote: Mr. Stuntz, aye, Mr. Rosen, aye, Ms. Amir-Lin, aye.

New Business

1. Request from the Town of Concord for water supply to bus facility off Knox Trail

Alan Cathcart, Director, Concord Public Works, presented the case for Concord parcel off Knox Trail, located in Concord, to be connected to the Acton Water supply. The Acton water main is closer to the property than the Concord water main. Currently, they are trucking in water as the well that was drilled on the property has not been in service since 2017. The property is the Concord Schools 4 bay maintenance facility and maintenance offices. The site houses approximately 46 buses and 3 mechanics. All water disposal is into a tight tank. With the current COVID-19 emergency, they are challenged to meet their needs for hygiene and disinfecting. Current water usage is less than 3,000 gallons every 2 weeks. Dr. Laurie Hunter indicated that there is a need for water on the site. She was not involved in the site selection but is now trying to manage a solution to their problem. After discussion, Mr. Rosen reminded those in attendance that the request had been previously denied on the recommendation of the Water Land Management Advisory Committee (WLMAC). Mr. Allen indicated that since the original request, in 2015, Concord has service to their building at 37 Knox Trail, in Acton, which serves as office space for Transportation personnel. Perhaps they could piggy-back onto that service for the bus facility. Mr. Stuntz indicated that all requests for out of town service are subject to District Meeting vote. The original request was met with much opposition. At this time, the Board will not entertain the request for emergency connection.

2. Vote to approve the local appropriation of \$100,000 for an Asset Management Plan DWSRF-6718

Mr. Allen informed the Board that the District needs to make an appropriation of \$100K for the Asset Management Grant through SRF. The grant will be for \$60K and the District will provide in-kind services in the amount of \$40K. Ms. Amir-Lin made a motion that the District accept the Acton Water District DWSRF-6718 Asset Management Planning grant and authorize expenditure from payroll line item, \$100,000, consisting of \$60,000 in grant funds and \$40,000 of the District obligation to provide "in-kind" services and staff obligations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rosen and unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Mr. Stuntz, aye, Mr. Rosen, aye, Ms. Amir-Lin, aye.

3. Adopt Memorandum of Understanding for 8 Post Office Square Right-of-Way

Mr. Allen presented the Board with the MOU for 8 Post Office Square and the Post Office Square Right of Way (ROW). Ms. Amir-Lin made a motion to adopt the MOU and authorize Mr. Allen to execute. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Mr. Stuntz, aye, Mr. Rosen, aye, Ms. Amir-Lin, aye.

Old Business

1. Appoint one Commissioner to approve Warrants while conducting meetings virtually

Mr. Rosen made a motion to appoint Ms. Amir-Lin to approve warrants until the next meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Stuntz and unanimously approved. Roll call vote: Mr. Stuntz, aye, Mr. Rosen, aye, Ms. Amir-Lin, aye.

2. Update on Solar Energy projects on Lawsbrook Road & Knox Trail

Ms. Amir-Lin provided an update that the Article 97 Legislation was signed by Governor Baker on August 7 (HB4923). Next steps will be to finalize the land lease for the Lawsbrook Road parcel with the developer, EDF-Renewables to allow construction to begin. There is a conference call this week with EDF, the Town of Acton and the District on the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) to the Town of Acton. Mr. Allen also indicated that there is potential for the District to offtake some power from the Lawsbrook array, which was not the original

model. Combined with the Knox trail array (Behind the meter to the South Acton Treatment Plant), this would satisfy the majority of the District's electric load at all District facilities.

3. Update on Central Acton Water Treatment Plant construction project

The groundbreaking for this project was held last week on Wednesday, 8/12. The project is currently about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. The new 12" main has been installed in the easement at 8 Post Office Square and halfway down the access road to the location of the new plant. The main installation on Main Street is on schedule. Five Oaks Construction (Contract #2) will prioritize the installation of the new 12" pipe in the ROW on Post Office Square. Sanexen will be on site in mid-September to reline the existing Main Street mains with the Aquapipe™ product, which should take about two weeks. Mr. Rosen it would be helpful for the District to post aerial photos of the progress on the AWD web site and suggested that the District use its drone to acquire these.

4. Communication with the Town of Acton Selectboard

Jim Snyder-Grant, the current liaison from the Board of Selectmen was in attendance. Mr. Rosen spoke about the need for better communication with the Town's Selectboard, and the possibility of the District naming a liaison to the Selectboard, who could attend those meetings when the schedule allows. Perhaps the District could work with the Town to get the meetings on alternate weeks when the new schedule is drafted for January 2021. It was decided to table this discussion until the time of setting the meeting schedule for 2021 draws nearer. Jim Snyder-Grant will report back to the Selectboard and update us in the near future.

5. Update of Per-and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Mr. Mostoller informed the Board that the July sample results had been received. The website was updated and the PFAS email update list was notified of the update. Conant wells are showing an increased concentration of PFAS. It could be related to the drought conditions or the increased reliance on those wells. SAWTP was below the guidance. Operational changes had an impact on that. The Assabet 2 well should be pumping to waste by the end of the week. The source must run for 48 hours prior to sampling. DEP approval will be required before the source can be put into the system. The District is currently on a quarterly monitoring schedule for PFAS.

The NAWTP Pilot is currently scheduled to begin after Labor Day. Mr. Allen indicated that the rollout of the current grant round for PFAS is expected around August 21st. Wright-Pierce will be applying on behalf of the District for MA State Revolving Fund (MA SRF) 0% financing to construct a PFAS remediation system after the pilot is completed.

Mr. Mostoller encourages customers with PFAS related questions to call the office and speak with staff. There is much misinformation on social media. The Commissioners agreed that the District has been very transparent with information as it has been received and will continue to be.

6. Other Old Business

The Drought Task Force recently changed the drought level indicators. We are currently in a Level 2 drought, significant drought. This declaration is driven by stream flows and fire danger. Currently there is no change being recommended to the outdoor water use program. Currently, no lawn watering is allowed.

Mr. Mostoller and representatives from DEP met with the Board of Health about PFAS on July 15. The District is committed to working with them and will continue discussions with the Board of Health. Currently, there is no additional meeting scheduled.

Mr. Allen informed the Board that he, Mr. Mostoller and Atty. Bassett met with representatives of a law firm that is currently soliciting clients for an active class action PFAS lawsuit. They will be scheduled for the next Commissioners meeting on Monday, 8/31, to meet with the Board.

Mr. Rosen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm. It was seconded by Ms. Amir-Lin and unanimously approved.

Roll call vote: Mr. Stuntz, aye, Mr. Rosen, aye, Ms. Amir-Lin, aye.

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.