

Board of Water Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Acton Water District  
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA  
Monday, November 16, 2020

**AGENDA**

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve minutes from meeting of 11/2/2020
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Update on Proposed Solar Projects
- 2. Update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP) Project
- 3. Update on Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

**E. 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: Erika Amir-Lin (Chair), Stephen Stuntz, Barry Rosen

District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates

District Manager: Chris Allen

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Citizens: Ron Parenti, Kim Kastens

Due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Charles Baker, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was not held at the Acton Water District Office, instead the meeting was held via Zoom Webinar. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 16, 2020 by Ms. Erika Amir-Lin.

**A. Comments from Citizens.**

No comments from citizens this evening.

**B. Approve Minutes from Meeting of 11/2/2020.**

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the minutes of November 2, 2020. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

**C. Appoint One Commissioner to Approve Warrants While Conducting Meetings Virtually.**

Mr. Rosen moved to appoint Mr. Stuntz as the Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

*1. Update on Proposed Solar Projects.*

Mr. Allen provided an update to the Commissioners on the proposed solar projects. He stated that there has been some progress on Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). The town's consultant has been in contact with the developer. The Developer contacted Dept of Revenue (DOR) but was told he could not

contact them on behalf of the public entity, and that the public entity had to contact DOR themselves. The developer did speak with town's consultant. Not much progress on the PILOT. Per DOR guidance, as a municipality we are entitled to have the PILOT include all applicable taxes. The developer is not letting this hold up the project and is proceeding as though it will be settled soon.

### *2. Update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP) Project.*

Mr. Allen provided an update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP) project. He stated that he'd sent the Commissioners drone video so that they could see the progress. The foundation is complete, and backfilling around it is ongoing. The mason is getting ready to erect scaffolding to get walls up. This will take place this week and next week.

He stated that Contract 2 (Five Oaks Construction-- water main) is done for the season. All the trenches on Main Street have been paved. The 12" main on Post Office Square will be put into service after a negative bacteria test. Service swap overs will not be done until spring on Post Office Square. He stated that Waterline has to get their 12" pipe both pressure and bacteria tested. Their plan is to get that tested this week. They are shooting to have the Greensand (filtration) vessels delivered by mid-December so that they can then enclose the building. The desire is to crane the vessels into the plant, but they can manage insertion through the overhead door if the timing does not work out.

There are no updates on eminent domain (533 Main Street and 6 Post Office Square).

### *3. Update on Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).*

Mr. Allen provided an update on Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). He stated that getting results from the lab is still taking longer than expected due to volume. We did get results from pilot sampling for NAWTP and saw lower concentrations than original sampling earlier this year. There is a gradation between 14 ppt up to 20ppt (much lower than what we had seen) in the filtrate. That data is still trickling in from the pilot. We will be running additional piloting in North Acton. Back in October, we'd discussed some operational challenges that we were experiencing with pressure buildup in the media being piloted. We are trying to determine what the cause of that is and the impact that will have on media from an Operation & Maintenance (O&M) perspective.

Today there were two containers that arrived from Canada for the PFAS pilot project with Altra Water (Formerly Sanexen). That will run over a period of months. They are trying to get this technology approved for drinking water use in Massachusetts and prove it in general for drinking water use. We are interested to see what the technology is and how it will perform. The District needed to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with Altra due to some US patents pending. They will have their own operation staff on site to conduct the piloting with our assistance.

### **Other Business:**

Mr. Rosen inquired about the District Meeting schedule for 2021. He just wants to ensure that it doesn't conflict with Acton Board of Selectmen's schedule. Mr. Allen stated that he will reach out to the Town Manager for their schedule before he works on the District meeting schedule in December.

Ms. Amir-Lin mentioned that Nagog Woods had a significant leak which the District assisted in repairing. She mentioned that on behalf of the Manager of the complex he wanted to express his sincere gratitude to the Operations workers who came out and assisted with the problem. They were professional and following all the appropriate Covid safety procedures.

*Mr. Rosen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz.*