

# Water Supply District of Acton

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## Joint Board of Water Commissioners and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda

**Monday, March 9, 2026 @ 7:00 PM**

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings are being held virtually via Zoom**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85671912929>

Phone one-tap:

+13052241968,,85671912929# US, +13092053325,,85671912929# US

Join via audio:

+1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 931 3860 US  
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York), +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbwXZzBtuT>

- **Comments from the public**
- **Approve minutes from the meeting of 2/23**
- **Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  - Current sample data, if available
  - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
  - EBC Panel Discussion
- Annual District Meeting Presentation

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Warrant Article Assignments
- Discussion of Annual Meeting and Surplus Revenue Articles

*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.*

Board of Water Commissioners & Finance Committee Joint Meeting

Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 23, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 2/9/2026
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  - Current sample data, if available
  - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
  - Bottled Water Rebate Update
- Review Draft Budget for FY'27 and proposed articles for 2026 Annual District Meeting Warrant
- Discussion of FY'27 Projected Debt Fee
- Annual District Meeting Presentation

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion of 2/14/26 Acton Exchange Article

**Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

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

*Finance Committee:* John Petersen

*District Manager:* Matt Mostoller

*Deputy District Manager:* Corey Godfrey

*District Treasurer/Collector:* Ashley Pinard

*Members of the Public:* Kim Kastens; Greg Jarboe; Bill Guthlein

## 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**

Ms. Kim Kastens of Pope Road addressed the Board in her role as a journalist with the *Acton Exchange*. She explained that the publication views its recent article concerning the District as an ongoing, developing story and may provide additional reporting in the future. Ms. Kastens also noted that the *Acton Exchange* welcomes letters to the editor and encourages community members to submit comments or perspectives on Acton-related matters.

Mr. Stuntz thanked Ms. Kastens for her remarks and acknowledged the role of the *Acton Exchange* in providing a public forum for civic discussion within the community.

### **Approve minutes from the meetings of 2/9/2026**

Ms. Lin motioned to approve the minutes of February 9, 2026, with corrections to the spelling of Mr. Petersen's name throughout the document. Mr. Rosen seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

### **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.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

##### **Current sample data, if available**

Mr. Mostoller provided updated PFAS sampling results and clarified that the figures in the meeting packet had since been updated:

- February 4, 2026 – Center Acton Plant: 12.5 parts per trillion (ppt)
- February 4, 2026 – North Acton Facility: 2.9 ppt
- February 18, 2026 – South Acton: 14 ppt

He explained that these results reflect sampling prior to full operational integration of the new granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment systems in Center and South Acton. Once DEP approvals are finalized and the GAC treatment trains are fully incorporated into

operations, PFAS levels are expected to reflect treated output rather than pre-upgrade conditions.

In response to a clarifying question, Mr. Mostoller confirmed that future reported PFAS values will represent performance with the upgraded systems online.

### **Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades**

Mr. Mostoller reported that the South Acton treatment plant underwent a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) inspection the previous Thursday. MassDEP staff reviewed sampling data, inspected the facility as constructed, observed alarm testing, and discussed operational procedures and system safeguards. He stated that no major concerns were identified and that the District anticipates receiving a conditional approval letter within approximately one week. Such approval would allow full operation of the facility while final documentation, including record drawings, O&M manuals, and administrative plan updates, is completed.

The Center Acton plant inspection was scheduled for later that week. Mr. Mostoller reported that the facility had recently undergone a successful “shakedown” run, including overnight unmanned operation, and that preliminary sampling results appeared favorable.

Mr. Mostoller also provided an update on the North Acton facility, which is currently offline or resting, due to low-level PFAS-6 detections in treated water. The District has requested a timeline from Veolia for the carbon media replacement process. Once the MassDEP inspection is completed in Center Acton, it is anticipated that well rehabilitation will begin in North Acton in March, followed by well rehabilitation at South Acton in April.

The discussion broadened to include operational impacts of the delayed PFAS project timeline. Mr. Mostoller noted that maintenance and flushing schedules have been affected due to focus on treatment plant construction. As a result, the District will implement a truncated flushing program and could enter the spring season with some form of water restriction in place. He also referenced ongoing drought conditions and noted that deep frost conditions have limited groundwater recharge, even with winter snowfall, potentially affecting seasonal recovery.

### **Bottled Water Rebate Update**

Mr. Mostoller reviewed the draft notification letter included in the packet and explained that, with MassDEP approvals expected imminently for the South and Center Acton PFAS mitigation systems, the District should consider winding down the bottled water rebate program. The program, which provided \$15 per month per household, for qualifying

sensitive subgroup members, was implemented during periods of non-compliance as an interim alternate water supply.

The Board discussed timing considerations, including whether a delay in MassDEP approvals would require adjusting the program's conclusion. Mr. Mostoller expressed confidence that conditional approvals would likely be received in early March and stated that providing advance notice to participants was important.

Mr. Rosen motioned to discontinue the bottled water rebate program pending receipt of MassDEP approvals for the South Acton and Center Acton PFAS mitigation systems. Ms. Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

### **Review Draft Budget for FY'27 and proposed articles for 2026 Annual District Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Mostoller reviewed the draft FY27 budget and proposed warrant articles. He explained that approximately \$1.3 million in surplus revenue (free cash) is proposed for capital projects and that the warrant includes creation of a PFAS stabilization fund and related appropriations for PFAS totaling \$630,000 across FY26 and FY27.

He detailed the delay in free cash certification, attributing it to late delivery of the District audit, reconciliation of prior borrowing and Clean Water Trust reimbursements, and coordination with consultants to ensure compliance with Department of Revenue requirements.

The Board discussed procedural options should free cash not be certified prior to the Annual District Meeting, including continuing the meeting within statutory limits or calling a special meeting once certification is received. The importance of publishing the warrant in a timely manner was emphasized.

Ms. Lin motioned to close the warrant for the 2026 Annual District Meeting as presented. Mr. Rosen seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

### **Discussion of FY'27 Projected Debt Fee**

Mr. Mostoller reviewed the projected FY27 debt fee and emphasized the importance of evaluating rate changes in actual dollar amounts rather than percentage increases. He explained that the fixed fee represents shared infrastructure costs incurred before any water is consumed and supports system reliability, public health protection, and fire suppression capacity.

He noted that while percentage increases may appear significant, the monthly impact between what the Board and Finance Committee are discussing equates to approximately \$4.60 for low users, \$2.65 for average users, and \$1.25 for high users. He expressed concern that water service is often undervalued relative to the essential services provided and this conversation is continuing to perpetuate that view.

Commissioners reflected that voters had previously approved PFAS and other capital investments with the understanding that related costs would eventually be reflected in the debt fee. Transparency is part of the argument for utilizing the debt fee. Mr. Petersen and Mr. Guthlein raised concerns regarding cost allocation, equity between fixed and variable components, and conservation incentives. The conversation acknowledged differing perspectives but remained focused on balancing infrastructure sustainability with ratepayer impacts.

### **Annual District Meeting Presentation**

The Board and Finance Committee engaged in a detailed discussion regarding preparation for the upcoming Annual District Meeting presentation.

There was broad agreement that the startup of the PFAS treatment plants represents a major operational milestone for the District and should be prominently acknowledged at the outset of the presentation. Mr. Petersen and Mr. Rosen emphasized that the presentation should first highlight accomplishments made possible through prior voter-approved investments, particularly the completion of the PFAS treatment facilities and related supply improvements, before transitioning into discussion of new warrant articles and the proposed FY'27 budget. Members expressed that beginning with these achievements would provide important context for voters and underscore the progress made in strengthening the District's water system.

The group also discussed organizing the presentation around the themes of supply, distribution, and overall system improvements. It was suggested that the PFAS treatment plant upgrades, well rehabilitation efforts, and land acquisition initiatives be clearly framed as supply-side investments essential to long-term reliability and public health protection. In addition, members noted the importance of clearly communicating key budget drivers, including increases in healthcare and retirement costs, as well as the operational uncertainties associated with running the newly installed granular activated carbon (GAC) systems.

Finally, the role of the Finance Committee in giving the presentation and their recommendations on the warrant articles at the Annual District Meeting was reviewed. Mr. Stuntz felt that the Finance Committee chair should make the presentation. Mr. Mostoller

indicated that the Committee has deferred to John since the inception of a presentation. Mr. Guthlein indicated he would be travelling abroad on the night of Annual Meeting so cannot be the presenter. The discussion then addressed logistical considerations for the March 18 annual meeting relative to Mr. Guthlein being out of the country. Mr. Petersen and Mr. Guthlein will need a meeting to ensure that the presentation materials and article positions are fully aligned in advance of the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion of 2/14/26 Acton Exchange Article**

The Board discussed the February 14, 2026 Acton Exchange article concerning water rates and PFAS settlement funds.

Commissioners emphasized that two separate issues were being conflated in public discussion: rate structure considerations and allocation of PFAS settlement funds. The Board reiterated that it chose not to use PFAS settlement funds to reduce debt at this time due to ongoing uncertainty regarding long-term PFAS treatment costs, including unknown GAC replacement frequency and potential future regulatory changes at the state or federal level.

The Board discussed whether a formal written response was warranted. While concerns were expressed regarding framing and certain factual elements, the consensus was that no formal response would be issued at this time. Mr. Mostoller noted that Ms. Kastens had reached with an offer to make factual corrections if needed, however, he did not take her up on this offer pending tonight's meeting.

Mr. Greg Jarboe thanked Mr. Mostoller for providing an expedited meeting transcript to assist with timely reporting.

**Mr. Rosen moved to adjourn the Board of Water Commissioners meeting. Ms. Lin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by roll call vote.**

**Meeting Closed at 8:19 p.m.**

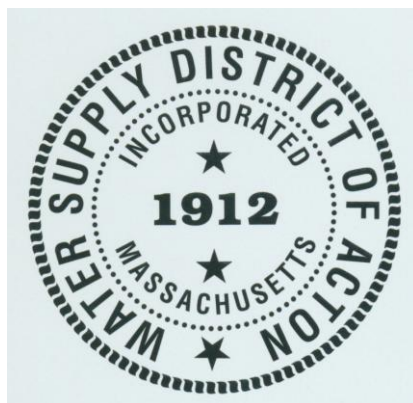
**The next scheduled meeting is March 9, 2026.**

## FY 2027 Budget and Estimated Revenue

	Actual FY 25	Budget FY 26	6 month actual	Budget FY 27
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Audit/Accounting	16,000	28,000	20,600	35,000
Auto Maint & Fuel	53,560	75,000	18,282	75,000
Short Term Debt	258,639	-	-	-
Long Term Debt	1,959,978	2,255,740	441,429	3,032,586
Chemicals	122,802	184,800	78,520	190,344
DEP Withdrawal	4,791	5,000	4,583	5,000
Employee Education	8,028	17,500	13,794	17,500
Engineering	53,305	60,000	12,646	60,000
Health/Life Insurance Active	204,164	295,601	129,580	330,190
Health/Life Insurance Retiree	113,824	131,121	61,493	181,150
Information Reports	11,120	40,000	1,571	40,000
Insurance	110,593	141,650	128,765	169,980
Laboratory Analysis	77,887	85,000	55,192	89,250
Legal	58,185	110,000	22,477	110,000
Lights/Power/Fuel	600,000	600,000	313,847	660,000
Maintenance & Operations	535,403	750,000	374,397	750,000
Media Replacement	-	100,000	-	-
NAWTP PFAS Filter Lease	315,311	322,000	160,828	-
Middlesex Retirement	354,740	397,791	397,791	438,431
Meters	124,715	400,000	67,320	400,000
Office Supplies & Postage	41,622	50,000	19,484	50,000
Software Subscriptions/ IT Maintenance	46,067	125,000	44,778	100,000
Telephone	21,000	21,000	11,097	21,000
Reserve Fund	69,391	100,000	-	100,000
Salaries & Wages	1,443,969	1,675,000	797,739	1,725,000
Vehicle	-	60,000	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,605,094</b>	<b>8,030,203</b>	<b>3,176,215</b>	<b>8,580,431</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Water Revenue	4,471,297	4,602,230	2,595,192	4,577,973
Service Fee	537,810	534,000	269,325	534,000
Debt Fee	2,366,364	2,260,600	1,140,143	3,034,900
Total Water Revenue	7,375,471	7,396,830	4,004,659	8,146,873
Fire Protection Sprinklers	42,939	41,000	41,177	41,000
Rent/Lease	143,763	115,000	67,577	115,000
Solar Field lease revenue	372,500	385,000	-	385,000
Repairs/Installation	23,344	50,000	14,669	50,000
Cross Connection	23,797	21,000	16,628	21,000
Demand Fees	245,600	250,000	38,100	150,000
Mitigation Fees	235,060	-	7,905	-
New Services Meter Installation RF	12,164	-	9,389	-
Total Other Revenue	1,099,167	862,000	195,445	762,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,474,637</b>	<b>8,258,830</b>	<b>4,200,104</b>	<b>8,908,873</b>

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.



To the Clerk of the Water Supply District of Acton, GREETINGS:

You are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Acton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to assemble at their precinct:

*All Precincts voting at Blanchard Auditorium  
R.J. Grey Junior High School  
16 Charter Road  
Acton, Massachusetts*

On Tuesday, April 28, 2026  
Between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Then and there to bring their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

**Commissioner for three years**

**Clerk for three years**

You are further directed to notify the legal voters of the Town of Acton, as aforesaid, to assemble at:

**Acton Public Safety Facility  
371 Main Street  
Acton, Massachusetts 01720**

**On Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
6:00 P.M.**

**Then and there to act on the following Articles:**

**Article 1.** To fix salaries of the elected officials.

**Article 2.** To act on the reports of the Commissioners, the Treasurer, and other officers and committees of the District.

**Article 3.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 4.** To see what sums of money the District will vote to raise and appropriate to defray the usual expenses of the District.

**Article 5.** To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for Mitigation," or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 6.** To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for New Service Meter Installations," or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 7.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 to clean and rehabilitate existing wells throughout the District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 8.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of replacing old water mains, renewing old water services, and replacing old fire hydrants, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 9.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of repairing emergency water main breaks, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 10.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 for the replacement of filtration media at the District's water treatment plants, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 11.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$30,000 for Website ADA compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA required by April 26, 2027, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 12.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$150,000 for the management of the North Acton Water Treatment Plant filtration residuals or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** To see if the District will vote transfer from Surplus Revenue \$250,000 for the engineering and costs associated with repairs and improvements to the Flagg Hill Tank, piping, disinfection systems, and access road or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$500,000 for improvements to the District's water distribution system and water mains in Acton or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts general laws Chapter 44 section 53 to establish a special revenue fund to be known as the "PFAS Settlement Fund", said funds upon appropriation to be expended for any purpose allowed pursuant to the 3M and Dupont settlements as voted by a future District meeting or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 16.** To see if the District will vote to transfer the sum of \$330,000 from the PFAS Settlement Fund for the FY27 expenses for the North Acton Water Treatment Plant PFAS system lease, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 17.** To see if the District will vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the PFAS Settlement Fund for PFAS Media Replacement, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 18.** To see if the District will vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the PFAS Settlement Fund to reimburse the FY26 General Fund for emergency water interconnections with Littleton and Concord, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Hereof fail not and make due returns of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Water Commissioners on or before the time of holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand this 23rd day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-six.

Erika Lin  
Barry Rosen  
Stephen C. Stuntz, Water Commissioners

A true copy. ATTEST:

Joe Robb  
District Clerk

**From:** [John Petersen](#)  
**To:** [Matt Mostoller; sstuntz@acornlab.com](#)  
**Cc:** [william.charles.mullin@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** AWD annual meeting budget amendment  
**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 2026 8:20:54 AM

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Hi Matt and Steve,

As the commissioners have again reaffirmed their position with respect to the FY27 budget on Monday, at the annual meeting, I would like to propose an amendment to the budget article.

An amendment would allow the voters to choose between the FY27 budget as approved by the commissioners and one which provides comparable increases in the usage and debt portions of the customer water bills.

At a high level, this is the change I would like to see presented in the amendment:

<b>Acton Water District Revenue Budgets - FY26, and FY27</b>					
	<b>FY26</b>	<b>Commissioners FY27</b>		<b>Fincom Proposed</b>	
<b>REVENUE*</b>	millions	% change from FY26		% change from FY26	
<b>usage</b>	\$4.602	-0.5%	\$4.578	10.9%	\$5.104
<b>debt</b>	\$2.261	34.2%	\$3.035	10.9%	\$2.507
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$6.863		\$7.613		\$7.611
% revenue increase, usage + debt			<b>10.9%</b>		<b>10.9%</b>
<i>* Usage and debt are about 85% of total revenue, remainder is other &amp; service fee</i>					

From a mechanics perspective, I am not proposing any change to the PFAS articles 16-18. I am also not proposing any change in total revenue (total revenue is \$7.6 million in either case).

What I propose is to increase the usage fees by 10.9% and use the increased revenue (~\$526K) to pay for debt service.

The debt fee would be calculated as (debt service minus \$526K) divided by the number of users.

I can imagine a number of ways to draft the amendment. At a high level one approach is to have two full budgets which would differ only in the usage revenue and debt service as described above.

Another approach is provide language like: I move to amend the budget by increasing usage revenue by \$526K and reducing the debt service revenue by \$526K. If the amendment were to pass, then the commissioners could vote new usage rates and codify the debt fee calculation consistent with the budget after the annual meeting.

Please let me know what form of amendment would be:

1. compliant with the law and
2. lead to the most productive discussion of the FY27 budget.

Regardless of whether the amendment passes or fails, this approach seems highly likely to lead to an approved budget for FY27 at the annual meeting.

Best regards,  
John