

# Water Supply District of Acton

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ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

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## Board of Water Commissioners & Finance Committee Meeting Agenda

**Monday, June 3, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**

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

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- **Comments from the public**
- **Approve minutes from the meetings of 5/13 and 5/28**
- **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
- Update on BALDCO Acquisition
- Update on 549 Main Street
  - Conservation Restriction Status
  - Rules & Regulations for Public Use
- Discuss Flume Rebate Program

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Meeting Schedule July-December 2024
- Discuss Special District Meeting on June 13, 2024

*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

Meeting Agenda

Monday, May 13, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

**AGENDA**

- Swearing in of newly elected officials—Commissioner and Moderator
- Annual appointments by Board of Water Commissioners
- Annual appointment by District Moderator
- Swearing in of newly appointed officials
- Board realignment
- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 4/29/24
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
- Current sample data, if available
- Discussion of PFAS Upgrades

NEW BUSINESS:

- Approve rebate program for Flume water monitoring devices in support of Water Research Foundation (WRF) Residential End Uses of Water, Version 3: A Single-Family and Multi-Family Study

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Members of the Finance Committee: John Petersen, Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

District Treasurer: Christine McCarthy

District Counsel: Mary Bassett, Spencer Holland

District Clerk: William Stanford

Assistant District Clerk: Helen Argento

District Moderator: William Mullin

Environmental Manager: Alexandra Wahlstrom

Members of the Public: Kim Kastens, Ron Parenti, Alisa Nicol, Diane Baum

## **START OF MINUTES**

Ms. Amir Lin opened meeting at 7:08

### **Swearing in of newly elected officials—Commissioner and Moderator**

William Stanford, District Clerk, swore in elected official Erika Amir Lin as Commissioner.

William Stanford, District Clerk, swore in elected official William Mullin as Moderator.

### **Annual appointments by Board of Water Commissioners**

Mr. Rosen motioned for the Board of Commissioners to make the following appointments,

- Christine McCarthy as Treasurer/Collector
- Matthew Mostoller as Assistant Treasurer
- Spencer Holland as District Counsel
- Meredith Roberts as Secretary
- Helen Argento as Assistant District Clerk

Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin.

### **Annual appointment by District Moderator**

William Mullin, District Moderator, appointed William Guthlein to the Finance Committee.

### **Swearing in of newly appointed officials**

William Stanford, District Clerk swore in the following appointed officials:

- Christine McCarthy as Treasurer Collector
- Matthew Mostoller as Assistant Treasurer
- Spencer Holland as District Counsel
- Meredith Robers as Secretary
- Helen Argento as Assistant District Clerk
- William Guthlein as Finance Committee Member

Of the Annual Appointments, Mr. Mostoller noted that there is no appointment to the Water Land Management Advisory Committee (WLMAC). The Committee is now at two members after the recent passing of Charles Olmstead in March. The Board will discuss the future of WLMAC at a later date. The Board of Commissioners expressed their condolences for Mr. Olmstead's passing.

### **Board realignment**

Mr. Stuntz motioned to elect Barry Rosen as the Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stunts, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin.

Mr. Mostoller and the Board thanked Mary Bassett for her many years of service to the Acton Water District as District Counsel.

### **Comments from the public**

None at this time,

### **Approve minutes from the meeting of 4/29/24**

Ms. Amir Lin motioned to approve the minutes of April 29, 2024. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen.

### **Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually**

Mr. Rosen motioned to appoint Mr. Stuntz to sign warrants until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Ms. Amir Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

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

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

Mr. Mostoller updated the board on PFAS sample data. The April results from Center Acton taken April 24<sup>th</sup> came back at 5 ppt. Mr. Mostoller also noted that this sampling data is for the Mass DEP regulated compounds. Mr. Mostoller noted that though these sample results are very good, sample results may climb in the fall.

Currently, both Center and South Acton are contributing to the water system. Ms. Wahlstrom will conduct May sampling this week.

Mr. Rosen asked if the frequent rains diluted the PFAS, to which Mr. Mostoller affirmed that they do think the favorable precipitation is diluting the sample.

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

Mr. Mostoller reviewed the positive updates from the PFAS upgrade projects. Center Acton Treatment Plant had its kickoff meeting for the Variable Frequency Drive Manufacturer who was confident they could deliver all four on time. MassDEP approved the construction of the PFAS Treatment Plant, and the District received their Water Management Act Permit,

amended to include the additional withdrawal from the Bedrock Well. They are still awaiting the new source approval and approval to construct the Bedrock Wells, which has been delayed due to personnel changes at DEP and the hand off of this paperwork. The bids on the Center Acton project will be opening this week.

For South Acton, bids were opened last week, and they only had 2 bidders. Both came in above what the engineer estimated but the approval for the project was for a higher amount. During the design phase, changes to the building type and treatment technology were made, helping decrease the overall cost. They are awaiting word from the engineer on their official recommendation to award.

A meeting with the building structure supplier last week also went well. That vendor is eager to begin work and assured Mr. Mostoller that they believe they can deliver supplies by December of this year.

Ms. Amir Lin asked what areas of the project contributed to the increased cost of the two bids that came in. Mr. Mostoller said they are waiting for the more specific bid info from the engineer to see where those increases came from.

Mr. John Petersen asked what the appropriated amount was. Mr. Mostoller estimated it was around \$8.7 million. (After the meeting, it was noted that the actual amount for this project was \$7.82 million, the South Acton project was the \$8.7 million appropriation). Mr. Mostoller added that he does not believe this increased cost will be a major issue, but they are still awaiting more specific details to understand the situation.

Mr. Mostoller moved on to update the board on project issues with North Acton. The project was moving rapidly towards MassDEP approval and sampling was conducted. When that data came back it suggested no removal of PFAS from the water. This was determined to be because of a flaw in the flow configuration, not a design flaw or issue with the media. The configuration as it was set up had multiple bypasses open. They have been working on this with the filter provider, Veolia, since last week. Mr. Mostoller then thanked the District's staff, including Ms. Wahlstrom, Mr. Andrew Peterson, and Mr. Jamie Trippier for their hard work to resolve this issue over the past few days. Mr. Mostoller estimated that they lost 2-3 weeks on the project's start up schedule. In working with Veolia to resolve the issues, they are asking them to provide visual cues to prevent the bypass configuration from happening again. Mr. Mostoller expressed his frustrations with this issue and the subsequent delay.

Mr. Rosen asked if the GAC vessels are still good to use. Mr. Mostoller replied he believes they are.

Mr. Petersen asked if the system is automatic or manual, if this was a failure of software or a mechanical failure. Mr. Mostoller responded that the system uses both manual and automated systems, and the issue lies with both. Mr. Mostoller noted that this is not a failure of the treatment process, or with the sampling, this was an equipment failure.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Approve rebate program for Flume water monitoring devices in support of Water Research Foundation (WRF) Residential End Uses of Water, Version 3: A Single-Family and Multi-Family Study**

Mr. Mostoller, assisted by Ms. Wahlstrom gave a presentation on the Flume Water monitoring device, and the Water Research Foundation Residential End Use study.

In the presentation, Mr. Mostoller highlighted the following pieces of information. Flume is a water monitoring device that can interpret water use on an hourly basis. The device uses an algorithm to interpret water flows and connect them with in-home water uses like showering, sink use, toilet flushes, etc., which is a level of specificity that current water meters cannot do, unless there is a technician in the field actively monitoring water flow patterns onsite. Mr. Mostoller explained the purpose of the device is to collect data to inform user habits to promote water conservation and efficiency. The Water Research Institute is a non-profit organizing the study of residential end water use. They've conducted this study twice before, most recently in 2016. Flume was selected as the partner company of the study.

The District agreed to participate in the study, which would entail 100 Flume devices being used in Acton. 11 are currently in use. Flume has offered to provide 10 devices free for multi-unit housing and would subsidize 80 additional devices. What the proposed motion of this item would do is provide a rebate, similar to the District's existing toilet or washing machine rebates. Mr. Mostoller also noted that there would be a fee of about \$1,100 for staff to use the utility portal.

The item opened for discussion, Ms. Amir Lin, expressed support for the study to get useful data on end use. She asked what the direct cost to the participating customer is. Mr. Mostoller responded that it's about \$249 to purchase normally, but with Flume's offer it would be about \$75 plus shipping and tax.

Ms. Amir Lin asked if there is a monthly fee to use Flume. Mr. Rosen, who is familiar with the program responded that there is not a monthly fee, but the customer does have to consent to Flume collecting and using their data.

Ms. Amir Lin asked how complex the installation is. Mr. Mostoller responded it is simple, and Flume has multiple information guides to inform installation.

Ms. Amir Lin asked if the customer gets to keep the device after the study, Mr. Mostoller responded that the customer does retain ownership of the device.

The board continued to discuss this item, covering conservation and efficiency goals, the necessity of internet connection for the Flume device to send data, and the timeline of the study. Mr. Rosen asked about the other company involved in the study. Mr. Mostoller explained they are providing analysis services for the study.

Ms. Kim Kastens asked if Mr. Mostoller can explain how the device works and how it can tell the difference between uses. Mr. Mostoller explained that there is a magnet in the water meter, the Flume picks up the signal from the magnet and measures the intervals of the flow rate. From that data the algorithm then interprets the flow rate patterns and associates it with in-home uses.

Mr. Petersen asked how customers can sign up. Mr. Mostoller said they will contact customers via email to advertise the program. Mr. Rosen asked about meter compatibility, Mr. Mostoller said that very few meters in the District are incompatible with Flume.

Mr. Ron Parenti asked about the primary purpose of the study. Mr. Mostoller and the board continued to discuss the purpose of the study, its data goals, and the role of the algorithm in the interpretation of data.

Turning back to the proposed motion for this item, Mr. Rosen asked if the rebates should have a ceiling. Mr. Mostoller suggested that 80 rebates of \$100 would be a good starting point that can be adjusted if necessary.

Mr. Rosen motioned for the Board of Commissioners to allocate up to \$8,000 for the Residential End Uses Water Study as funded by the Water Research Foundation for the. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion.

After brief discussion, Mr. Stuntz amended the motion to allocate up to \$8,000 in rebates. Ms. Amir Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

Ms. Kim Kastens commented that because the algorithm of the Flume is new technology it might be good to find participants who are passionate about water use to manually log their water use to see if it matches the flume results. The Board discussed this idea briefly.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

**Meeting Closed at 8:07 pm.**

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Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 28, 2024 @ 7:00 PM

**AGENDA**

- Comments from the public

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discuss Pre-Bid of long lead time equipment
- Discuss bid results for Center Acton PFAS Upgrades
- Call Special District Meeting on June 13, 2024 at 6 PM
- Approve the Warrant article(s) for the Special District Meeting

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Members of the Finance Committee: John Petersen

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

District Treasurer: Christine McCarthy

District Counsel: Spencer Holland

Members of the Public: Kim Kastens, Ron Parenti, Bill Guthlein, Alissa Nicol

**START OF MINUTES**

Mr. Rosen opened meeting at 7:00

**Comments from the public**

None at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discuss Pre-Bid of long lead time equipment**

Mr. Mostoller shared on screen a copy of the project financing needs spreadsheet that was included in the meeting packet. He gave an overview of the equipment that had been pre-bid for both the CAWTP and SAWTP PFAS projects and explained that the District needs to pay some costs for the equipment during FY 24 and will be reimbursed by the SRF program during FY 25. He mentioned that Ms. McCarthy identified a potential hiccup with this process and both he and Ms. McCarthy have met with the SRF program and Ms. McCarthy

was also in touch with the DOR to get more information. Essentially, since the District is using its own funds and is going to be reimbursed after July 1st, this could result in an encumbrance to the District's Free Cash. A workaround has been identified; the District will need to receive reimbursement from SRF prior to September 30<sup>th</sup> and provide documentation to DOR during the Free Cash submission process that the funds have been received. This will likely be a non-issue, however, Mr. Mostoller and Ms. McCarthy wanted to bring this to the Board's attention. Both Mr. Stuntz and Mr. Rosen thanked Ms. McCarthy for her efforts in looking out for the District.

### **Discuss Bid Results for Center Acton PFAS Upgrades**

Mr. Mostoller then shared on screen the document prepared by Wright Pierce for the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant PFAS Upgrades project. This document was also included in the meeting packet. Mr. Mostoller explained that at the 2023 Annual District meeting, voters approved an article for the CAWTP PFAS upgrades as well as an article for the construction of the two bedrock wells at 549 Main Street. These were originally two separate projects, however, after SRF initially only approve the PFAS project, the District requested that the SRF program combine the projects, which they agreed to do as they are closely related projects articulated in our PFAS corrective actions for this site. Additionally, PFAS design costs are now eligible to be rolled into the SRF loan at 0% interest. Mr. Mostoller then explained that the apparent low bid for the general contractor came in higher than the engineer's estimates. In meeting with the SRF program, he learned that SRF is amenable to increasing the loan amount as long as we obtain voter approval.

Ms. Amir Lin had a question about the bid and asked if there had been any discussion with the contractor about what made the construction costs come in higher? Mr. Mostoller responded that we don't have the detailed costs at this time. Overall, in this market bids are coming in higher, generally around 30% according to the Clean Water Trust. The SAWTP PFAS project also had bids that came in higher than the engineer's estimate, however, changes to the design had been made prior to bidding which resulted in a savings of \$977k for that project so in reality, the net additional ask of voters is \$1.5million for PFAS response actions. Another factor for the higher cost is there were only two bidders. There is lots of work out there and bidders aren't competitive. Also, it seems that larger firms aren't bidding projects of our size.

Mr. Rosen asked if we have any experience with WES Construction Corp. Mr. Mostoller does not have experience with this GC, however, Wright Pierce does have experience with them and spoke favorably of their work.

Mr. Stuntz asked how much we have lost on the bedrock well project. Mr. Mostoller said that without a statement of values available for this project we don't know how much of the cost is for the wells versus the building.

Mr. Petersen inquired about the bedrock well cost. He wanted to know how this is parsed out on the schedule presented. Mr. Mostoller responded that the costs are comingled on this schedule. Mr. Petersen then responded that we should map how we got from the original number to the new number for the Special District meeting. He would like to see the numbers collapse to 3 digits.

Mr. Mostoller responded that he hopes to receive the schedule of values in time for the Special District meeting.

Ms. Kastens then asked what the difference is between the \$2.5 million and the \$1.5 million Mr. Mostoller mentioned earlier. Mr. Mostoller responded that we have a \$977k surplus on the SAWTP project appropriation and a \$2.5 million deficit on the CAWTP project appropriation. These projects are also carrying contingencies and if we don't use these the actual amount borrowed will be less.

Mr. Petersen then advised against netting out the projects at the Special District meeting. Mr. Mostoller agreed and said he hopes we don't need to get into that level of detail.

#### **Call Special District Meeting on June 13, 2024**

Mr. Mostoller informed the Board that the Moderator and Clerk are available. This date provides the engineers with enough time to finalize their submission to SRF and allows us to post the Warrant for the required two weeks.

To inform voters of the Special District meeting we will be sending an email blast to those with email addresses on file, a mailer will be sent to those without email addresses, we will post on social media and the warrant will be posted on District website, physical locations in Town, and advertised in the Action Unlimited. Mr. Rosen suggested also requesting a link be added to the Town of Acton's website homepage that points back to our website.

Mr. Mostoller continued that he and Ms. McCarthy met with the Finance Committee this morning and they support the article for the Special District meeting if sufficient materials are made available.

Mr. Petersen then discussed what information he feels should be provided to the public to make sure they have an understanding of what they are voting on. He believes we should have materials available and we should approach this with the same formality that we do

for the Annual District meeting. He also discussed the 3 slides and the information they would contain that the Finance Committee would like to see.

Mr. Stuntz is happy to hear Mr. Petersen raise these points because we tend to assume the voters know everything we are doing.

Mr. Rosen stated that the Finance Committee in their presentation needs to be clear about how this will impact voters, when the impact will take place, the amount, etc.

Ms. Amir Lin stated we should revisit how we go about presenting this at the next BOC meeting. Mr. Petersen stated that the Finance Committee is happy to make the next meeting a joint meeting to go over logistics.

Mr. Rosen then asked for a motion to call the Special District Meeting.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to call a Special District Meeting for a single warrant article on June 13, 2024 to be held at 693 Massachusetts Avenue to discuss the need for additional funding for the CAWTP PFAS project. Ms. Amir Lin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

#### **Approve the Warrant article(s) for the Special District Meeting**

Mr. Stuntz motioned to accept the warrant for the Special District Meeting as presented for tonight's meeting. Ms. Amir Lin seconded and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

The next BOC meeting will be a joint meeting with the Finance Committee.

#### **Additional New Business**

Mr. Mostoller then informed the board of an agenda item that was not reasonably anticipated when the meeting was posted and has a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Similar to other state grant programs, the board needs to grant authority the District Manager to file on behalf of the District for the Cyber Security Improvement Grant program offered by MassDEP.

Mr. Stuntz moved that the Board of Commissioners adopt the following resolution authorizing the District Manager, Matthew Mostoller, to file on behalf of the District for the Cyber Security Improvement Grant program.

#### **AUTHORITY TO FILE**

Whereas, Matthew Mostoller, after thorough investigation, has determined that the work activity consisting of: Cybersecurity Improvement is both in the public interest and necessary to protect the public health, and that to undertake this activity, it is

necessary to apply for assistance; and Whereas, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the Trust) of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pursuant to Chapter 21 and Chapter 29C of the General Laws of the Commonwealth (Chapter 21 and Chapter 29C) are authorized to make loans and grants to municipalities for the purpose of funding planning and construction activities relative to Water Pollution Abatement Projects and Drinking Water Projects; and Whereas, the Applicant has examined the provisions of the Act, Chapter 21 and Chapter 29C, and believes it to be in the public interest to file a loan or grant application. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Water Supply District of Acton Board of Commissioners as follows: 1. That Matthew Mostoller is hereby authorized on behalf of the Applicant to file applications and execute agreements for grant and/or loan assistance as well as furnishing such information, data and documents pertaining to the applicant for a grant(s) and/or loan(s) as may be required; and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the Applicant in connection with this application; 2. That the purpose of said loan(s)/grant(s), if awarded, shall be to fund approved activities. 3. That if said award is made the Applicant agrees to pay those costs which constitute the required Applicant's share of the project cost.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Amir Lin and unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

Ms. Amir Lin then asked about the project. Mr. Mostoller responded that applications are due June 1<sup>st</sup> for the FY 25 program. He anticipates a response will likely come in July and then the project will start in late summer and wrap up in March 2025.

Ms. Kastens commented that the packet on the website only included the agenda. Mr. Mostoller informed her that the additional materials were only circulated at the end of the day and would be made available on the website on Wednesday morning.

In other business, the MassDEP inspection of the NAWTP PFAS project will likely occur on Friday. Mr. Mostoller hopes to have an update for the Board at their next meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024 that PFAS free water has been flowing to the distribution through the weekend.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

**Meeting Closed at 7:49 pm.**

## Rules and Regulations for the Public Use of 549 Main Street

1. Hours of use are from sunrise to sunset.
2. The Issac Davis trail may be traversed outside the hours of use in accordance with the 1964 grant of easement to the Town of Acton on two dedicated days per year.
3. No domesticated animals are allowed on the property, including dogs and horses, except for forest management and historical re-enactments.
4. Public access is permitted for passive recreation, education, and nature study only. Camping, fishing, water-based activities (i.e. fishing, boating, swimming) and ice skating are prohibited, as is using the property to access Nashoba Brook for these purposes. Organized sports and active recreational uses are prohibited.
5. No motor vehicles, including drones and model airplanes, are permitted except as authorized by the Board of Water Commissioners or their designee.
6. Hunting and trapping are prohibited without written permission from the Board of Water Commissioners or their designee.
7. Alcohol is prohibited.
8. Fires, including grills, are prohibited, except for purposes of maintaining the property.
9. Constructing, placing, or installing a blind, tree stand, or other feature that could facilitate hunting is prohibited without prior written permission from the Board of Water Commissioners or their designee. Features so installed without written permission are subject to immediate confiscation and destruction by the District Manager or their designee.
10. No person shall cut, break, remove, move, deface, defile, or ill-use any structure, fence, boundary marker, or sign, or have possession of any part thereof.
11. Cutting, removing, defacing, or destroying trees, shrubs, grasses or other vegetation is prohibited except as allowed in the Land Management Plan and Conservation Restriction.
12. No person shall engage in business, sell or offer for sale, or distribute any goods, wares or brochures without prior written permission of the Board of Water Commissioners or their designee.
13. No structure of any kind, such as a bridge, tower, building, lean to, fort, or tent platform may be constructed.
14. No trails may be marked or constructed without prior written permission of the District Manager or their designee.
15. Private property left unattended for three days will be presumed to be abandoned and may be confiscated and disposed of at the discretion of the District Manager or their designee.
16. Disposal or storage of trash, debris, litter or other materials, either natural or manmade is prohibited.

### ENFORCEMENT

Violations of these Rules and Regulations may be enforced by the Police Chief, Police Officer, District Manager or their designee, Conservation Administrator, or other agent allowed by law. Violations of these Rules and Regulations shall be subject to a fine of \$100.00 per violation. Each day of a continuing violation will be deemed to be a separate violation.

**APPROVED BY:** Acton Board of Water Commissioners, 06/2024



# Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 953  
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

TELEPHONE (978) 263-9107

FAX (978) 264-0148

To: Board of Water Commissioners, Finance Committee, Moderator & Clerk  
From: Matthew Mostoller, District Manager  
Re: Meeting schedule for July 1 – Dec 31, 2024

***Board of Water Commissioners meeting schedule  
July 1, 2024-December 31, 2024  
All meetings begin at 7:00 PM***

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Finance Committee Member</u>
July 15	Ron Parenti
July 29	Bill Guthlein
August 12	John Petersen
September 9	Ron Parenti
September 23	Bill Guthlein
October 7	John Petersen
October 21	Ron Parenti
November 4	Bill Guthlein
November 18	John Petersen
December 9	Ron Parenti
December 23	Bill Guthlein

### Central Acton PFAS Treatment System & Bedrock Well Construction Project

- **\$2,400,000** appropriated March 15, 2023 for the design & construction of two bedrock wells located at 549 Main Street.
- **\$5,420,000** appropriated March 15, 2023 for costs associated with the design & construction of modifications to the permanent infrastructure at the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant to accommodate installation of a PFAS treatment system.

**Total appropriated: \$7,820,000**

### Project Progress

The design phase is complete and we are preparing to begin the construction phase. In early spring, we pre-bid the filter vessels and variable frequency drives (VFDs) to help keep the project on schedule. In May, we received two bids for the General Construction portion of the project; the lowest bid came in at **\$7,860,000**, which is higher than the original General Construction estimate of **\$5,230,000** provided by our engineers in 2022.

Bids coming in higher than previously estimated for water supply improvement projects is not unique to Acton. Multiple factors are contributing to the current bidding environment. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided an influx of Federal dollars which have tight deadlines for the expenditure of funds. The Clean Water Trust is receiving Federal dollars to finance local PFAS projects. The Trust has its own tight deadlines that must be abided by to maintain eligibility for financing and certain waivers. Additionally, many communities are working towards compliance with PFAS limits that are becoming lower and lower. The competition for engineering services, construction services and materials drives up costs.

The updated project costs based on the bids received are:

<b>Project Summary</b>	
Filters (Bid Price)	\$ 365,000
VFD Procurement (Bid Price)	\$ 135,769
General Construction (Bid Price)	\$ 7,860,000
	<b>Subtotal \$ 8,360,769</b>
8.8% Contingency	\$ 698,231
Construction Admin	\$ 743,000
	<b>Construction Total \$ 9,802,000</b>
Design Engineering	\$ 550,000
	<b>Project Total \$ 10,352,000</b>
<b>Amount authorized by Annual District Meeting held on March 15, 2023</b>	
	<b>\$ 7,820,000</b>

**Deficit \$ (2,532,000)**



### Impact on Debt Service and the Debt Fee with a Focus on the Next 5 Years

The District is fortunate to be receiving financing for this project through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. This project is eligible for a 0% interest loan and some amount of principal forgiveness is expected based on the timing of our project. The state has indicated that our loan amount can be increased if we have voter approval to support that increase. The impact of the additional appropriation on the debt fee is minimal— **less than \$10 per year per billed unit** over our original projections.

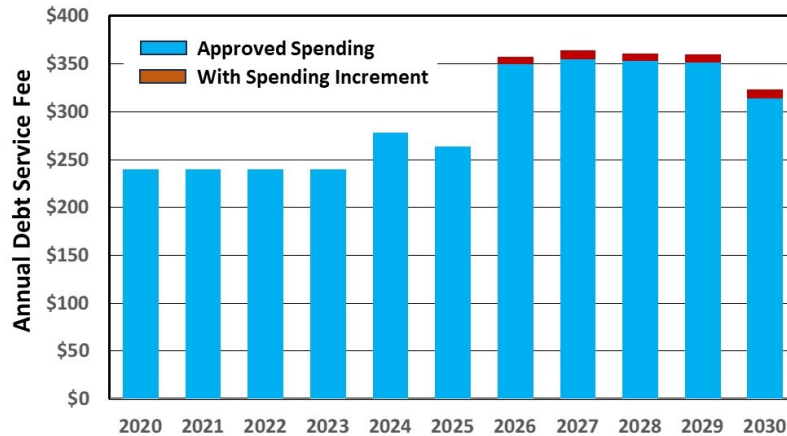
Original Projections

	Annual Debt Service	Debt Fee (annual per unit)	Quarterly Cost per unit	Daily cost per unit
2024	\$ 2,470,592.73	\$ 277.50	\$ 69.50	\$ 0.76
2025	\$ 2,348,983.83	\$ 263.93	\$ 66.00	\$ 0.72
2026	\$ 3,106,882.01	\$ 349.09	\$ 87.27	\$ 0.96
2027	\$ 3,161,776.12	\$ 355.26	\$ 88.81	\$ 0.97
2028	\$ 3,139,742.13	\$ 352.78	\$ 88.20	\$ 0.97
2029	\$ 3,117,564.80	\$ 350.29	\$ 87.57	\$ 0.96

Projections including additional appropriation

	Annual Debt Service	Debt Fee (annual per unit)	Quarterly Cost per unit	Daily cost per unit
2024	\$ 2,470,592.73	\$ 277.50	\$ 69.50	\$ 0.76
2025	\$ 2,317,423.83	\$ 264.00	\$ 66.00	\$ 0.72
2026	\$ 3,187,015.01	\$ 358.09	\$ 89.52	\$ 0.98
2027	\$ 3,242,393.12	\$ 364.31	\$ 91.08	\$ 1.00
2028	\$ 3,220,843.13	\$ 361.89	\$ 90.47	\$ 0.99
2029	\$ 3,199,147.80	\$ 359.45	\$ 89.86	\$ 0.98

#### Annual Debt Fee Trend



#### Warrant Article

Article 1. To see if the District will vote to appropriate an additional \$2,532,000 to supplement the appropriation of \$2,400,000 from Article 17 of the Annual Meeting of March 15, 2023 for costs associated with construction of bedrock wells at 549 Main Street and the appropriation of \$5,420,000 from Article 20 of the Annual Meeting of March 15, 2023 for costs associated with construction of modifications to the permanent infrastructure at the Central Acton Treatment Plant to accommodate installation of a PFAS treatment system; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise, which may include the borrowing of funds through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Thank you for attending this Special District meeting and for your interest in this important project.