

June 13, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, June 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

Present: James Taylor, Patrick Fasanello, Kevin Muti, Roger Turner and Ken Fettig. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water; and Scott Gustafson, Asst. Supt. of Sewer and Water.

REORGANIZATION

Commissioner Muti nominates Commissioner Fasanello for Chairman. There is no second.

Commissioner Fasanello nominates Commissioner Muti for Chairman. Second by Commissioner Fettig. Vote 5-0-0.

Commissioner Muti nominates Commissioner Fasanello for Clerk. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0.

Mr. Fasanello would like the clerk to perform the duties that they used to do years ago such as present the minutes, sign the minutes in the minute book, and present the abatements. The rest of the Board is in agreement with this.

The minutes of May 23, 2011 are discussed. Mr. Fettig would like them to reflect that he arrived at 7:01 not 7:05. This will be done. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to accept the minutes of May 23, 2011 with the amendment. Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 5-0-0.

Mr. Fasanello explains all abatements submitted tonight and they are reviewed. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to accept and sign the abatement submitted tonight. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0.

SUPT. UPDATE

Mr. Mattson says there is not a lot to report. His crew is avidly pursuing hydrant flushing to improve the quality of water supplied throughout the town.

The treatment plant strip tower project will be starting soon. Mr. Fasanello asks for a timeline and Mr. Mattson responds it will take 3 to 4 days and they will probably be here in August. It is asked if it will be done during the highest demand time and Mr. Mattson says he has pushed it back a bit.

He also reports that the pricing for the construction of storage tanks seem quite favorable.

IRRIGATION REQUESTS

There is only one request at this time on the agenda. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to approve the request to be allowed to install an irrigation system at 22 Anderson Way by Mr. Gollakota provided that they abide by the requirements of the Superintendent. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0.

Mr. Fasanello suggests charging a fee for a permit to install an irrigation system. He would like to see a \$20 charge incorporated into the fees for tracking purposes. The rest of the Board agrees.

7:15 PUBLIC RATE HEARING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello to open the public hearing. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 5-0-0. Mr. Turner notices that there are two proposed variations for the new water rate. Mr. Mattson explains there is \$1.1 million in retained earnings, Town Meeting authorized the spending of \$205,000 from this. If the Board opts to use an additional \$200,000 to keep the rate down, there would be \$700,000 leftover. Mr. Muti asks the Superintendent if he is comfortable with this and Mr. Mattson says based on the information from the Finance Director, he sees no harm in doing this. By using this money the water rate would only increase by 0.87%. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to set the water rate for fiscal year 2012 at \$47.26 per 1000 cubic feet by using \$200,000 of retained earnings. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. Mr. Mattson then reminds that at the October Town Meeting the Board will have to request the use of the retained earnings. Out of Town water rate is discussed. Mr. Mattson reminds that past practice was 20% additional for out of town. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to set the out of town water rate at \$60.00 per 1000 cubic feet. Second by James Taylor. Vote 4-1-0, Fettig against. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the seasonal second meter water rate charge the same. Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the final reading charge with a 24 hour advance notice at \$75.00. Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the final reading charge for less than 24 hour notice the same as last year. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the service call charge during working hours the same which is no charge. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. Mr. Fettig briefly stepped out of the meeting. The next item is service call during non working hours. Mr. Fasanello asks if we always charge and Mr. Mattson responds that if it is our problem and it is an emergency then we normally do not charge. Mr. Fasanello also asks if the current charge covers a non working hour service call and Mr. Mattson says no. There is some discussion. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to set the service call during non working hours at \$150.00. Second by James Taylor. Vote 4-0-0. Mr. Fettig returned to the meeting. There is some discussion on using fire hydrants to fill pools and Mr. Mattson says he prefers not to allow this method. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to keep the private hydrant flushing charge the same which is \$125.00 per hour. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to keep the out of town surcharge for residential customers the same which is \$100 per year/per account. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. There is discussion on the out of town surcharge, currently it is determined on an individual basis and it says see note. The Board is unclear what "see note" is for and will keep things the same for this line until they can get a better explanation. Pool fills is the next line and it is only for new pool, new liner or ice rink fills (no top offs), plus the cost of water. Mr. Mattson suggests that only those accounts that are current be allowed to receive this benefit and the Board agrees. They feel any service from this Department should only be allowed if the customer is current in their account. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to keep the charge of \$35.00 for new pool, new liner and ice rink fills. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to keep the hydrant meter charge at \$225.00 plus the cost of water. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to keep the meter testing charge at \$100.00 to be returned if meter is found to be faulty and keep the damaged or frozen meter charge at \$150.00. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to keep the second meter for outside watering charge at \$225.00 Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. Water entrance fees are discussed. Mr. Mattson says all of these fees were professionally reviewed and subsequently changed in March of this year. He sees no reason to change them at this time. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to keep all water entrance fees the same as they are on the 2011 fee schedule that went into effect on March 1, 2011. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to keep the fire sprinkler service line charge at \$2550.00 per connection. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0. Cross connection charges are discussed. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep all cross

connection charges the same which is no charge for a survey, \$100.00 per test and inspection per device, and no charge for re-test per device. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. License applications are then addressed. Mr. Fettig expresses concern over charging the same for a new license as a license renewal. The rest of the Board disagrees. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to keep the license application for both drainlayers, as well as certified and hydrostatic testers the same which is \$250.00. Second by James Taylor. Vote 4-1-0, Fettig against. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to keep all fines for tampering with the water or sewer systems and all fines for water management violations the same as last fiscal year. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to keep the discharge fee for the septage facility at .05 per gallon. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the after hour surcharge at the septage facility at \$75.00. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to keep the charge for a users license at the septage facility at \$125.00 for the year. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0. Sewer entrance fees are discussed next and again Mr. Mattson recommends keeping what we found to be fair and equitable in March of this year. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep sewer entrance fee for those that were assessed a betterment at \$150.00. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to keep all sewer entrance fees for non assessed properties the same as they are on the 2011 fee schedule that went into effect on March 1, 2011. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0. In town sewer cost rate is discussed. Mr. Mattson explains that administration is recommending a 0.36% increase. There is some discussion. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to increase the in town sewer cost rate from \$79.09 to \$79.38 per 1000 cubic feet as recommended by administration. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the out of town sewer cost rate at \$87.00 per 1000 cubic feet. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to keep inflow and infiltration charges at \$11.41 per gallon. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to keep the residential out of town surcharge at \$100.00 per year/per account. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 5-0-0. As with the water out of town surcharge there is discussion on the out of town surcharge for sewer, currently it is determined on an individual basis and it says see note. The Board is unclear what "see note" is for and will keep things the same for this line until they can get a better explanation. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello that all items discussed in this public hearing will go into effect July 1, 2011. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 5-0-0. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to close the public hearing. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0.

8:00 APPT. – M. VIANO, JESSAMINE LANE SUBDIVISION FORCE MAIN REQUEST

John Glossa, Engineer for the subdivision is present with Mr. Viano. Mr. Glossa explains that they will be submitting plans for a seven lot subdivision on a portion of the Sunny Rock Farm property. Included in these plans will be the creation of a homeowners association for maintenance of the road and utilities. They are considering installing a force main that would connect the association to the existing sewer manhole at the corner of North St and Covey Rd using Environment One grinder pumps and before moving forward with this plan they would like the approval of the Commission. There is some discussion and Mr. Fasanello asks how much a force main can handle and Mr. Mattson responds that it depends on the size. Mr. Fasanello asks if there is gravity sewer to Covey Rd and the answer is no. The suggestion is made for a shared septic and it is determined that this does not normally work well. The subject of groundwater recharge is brought up and the Board is informed that this would be handled under Stormwater Management. Mr. Fasanello then talks about allowing homes that are passed to connect and Mr. Glossa speaks about a second force main being left in the trench if ever needed for others. Mr. Viano says he sat down with Mr. Mattson and Town Engineer Ms. Walker and both were receptive to the preliminary thoughts. Mr. Muti says this is a conceptual plan and the applicant will be

coming back for comments and approval. Mr. Glossa adds that they will still work with the Board of Health and look for a better idea. Mr. Muti feels subject to the engineering details and provisions being made for any houses that are passed, as well as a second force main being left in a trench, that he is okay with the concept. Resident, Mr. Moraski, who has been present for the meeting asks how far the second trench would go and the answer given is to the intersection of the development. There is discussion on the design and Mr. Glossa says there will be a schematic and they will be working with an expert who will give them the correct number of houses using a program for this type of work. Mr. Muti says he is in agreement with the concept. Mr. Turner says he would not use these words but rather that an interesting proposal had been made and the Board would like to see more information and any other alternative that would be environmentally friendly. Mr. Fasanello feels the concept is not complete but if they can show that this will work then that would be great. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti in looking at the scope, that the applicant receive conceptual approval from this Commission for the force main to allow them to move forward and for which they will return to this Board in the future for a vote of approval on what has been discussed this evening. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 4-1-0, Turner against.

8:15 APPT. DPW DIRECTOR & TOWN ADMINISTRATOR – RECREATION WATER BILLS

Recreation Director Josh Cole, Director Bob O'Brien and Administrator Mike Boynton are present for this discussion. Mr. Boynton explains that money is owed by Recreation for water usage at the fields and town pools. Although trying to take care of it there is a major problem and he is making a formal request and promised not to come back to this Board for this again, if they could consider abating these charges. There is some discussion. Mr. Turner says these are recreation bills and does not understand why we should subsidize them as they raise a lot of money. He feels the affects all water rate payers and cannot see why these ratepayers should pay for a select group. Mr. Boynton responds that the pools do not make money. Mr. Turner feels abating these bills would set a bad precedent and Mr. Boynton responds that the Sewer & Water Commission can abate for any reason and it is not a legal precedent. Mr. Fasanello says recreation has a budget which would include payment for water. Mr. Boynton says they were probably short changed and he is looking for a bail out. He adds that he takes responsibility for taking \$60,000 away from recreation for other things that were running a deficit and expected that the revolving fund would take care of it. However that was not the case. Mr. Fasanello suggests getting a reserve fund transfer as the Sewer & Water Commission cannot be their "cash cow". Mr. Boynton says if that is what the Board prefers then that is what they will have to do. Mr. Taylor says the money charged for swimming lessons and pool tags should pay for the water and Mr. Boynton responds that it does not generate enough money. Mr. Taylor says the fees should be raised then and Mr. Boynton answers that they already did this and the other choice would be to shut down the pools. Mr. Taylor asks where all the money is that recreation makes and Mr. Boynton explains that they ran a loss and it used to come from the general fund. Mr. Fasanello asks how the Board would justify how the ratepayers will pay for this. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to eliminate the lien of \$8,846.85. Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 3-2-0 Fasanello and Taylor against. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to eliminate all other charges to the pools and fields that are currently in place. There is no second and Mr. Muti explains that since Mr. Fasanello made the motion at the last meeting to deny the request for the pool abatement it would have to be him that moved to reconsider. Mr. Fasanello says if there is anyone that can give him a good reason why they think he should to that he would be willing to listen. Mr. Fettig says how else are they supposed to get the money and Mr. Fasanello answers through a reserve fund transfer. Mr. Boynton says he is not sure a reserve fund transfer can be done with recreation and Mr. Fasanello says he should try as he was not elected to pay recreations bills. Mr. Boynton asks that they at least consider

willingness to look at the Stone field charges. There is some discussion. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to abate the \$8845.37 and the \$1669.94 charges for the Stone field. Second by Ken Fettig. Mr. Fasanello has a problem with this as he does not know where it will end. Mr. Muti asks how they can be assured that this will not happen again and Mr. Boynton says it won't because he does not want to go through this again. Vote on the motion 3-2-0, Fasanello and Taylor against.

Mr. Boynton speaks about it being brought to his attention the balance of retained earnings. It was suggested to him that projects be looked at like replacing the existing asbestos pipe lines, extending sewer. He was asked to put together a visionary plan and of course will consult with Commission with any thoughts.

SUMMER SCHEDULE

There is discussion on who would be available during the summer and it is decided that June 27th will be cancelled, there will not be any meetings in July unless there is something that needed addressing before the next meeting, and this next meeting is scheduled for August 22nd. This

WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL BID RECOMMENDATION OF SUPT.

Motion Made by Roger Turner to concur with recommendations of the Superintendent in awarding the water treatment chemicals. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello to adjourn. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.