

**April 27, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

Present: William Abbott, Ken Fettig, Roger Turner, John Spillane and Patrick Fasanello. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water.

The record shows that Mr. Fasanello is taping the meeting and it is announced.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

The minutes under agenda hearings has the wrong date, it should have read April 13, 2015. Also, Mr. Abbott and Mr. Fettig have a couple of typos they would like to see corrected. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to accept the minutes of April 13, 2015 as amended. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0.

#### **JARVIS FARM COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

Of the four appointees the Commission must now determine the staggered terms. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to appoint Larry Pitman and Joe Grant to the three year terms. Second by William Abbott. There is some discussion. Vote 4-0-1, Fasanello abstained. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to appoint Bryan Jarvis to the two year term. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-1, Fasanello abstained. **Motion Made** by Roger Turner to appoint Jim Sears to the one year term. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-1, Fasanello abstained. The next step is to appoint a chairman pro tem until the Committee's first meeting where they will elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to appoint Larry Pitman pro tem Chairman. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-1, Fasanello abstained.

#### **REQUEST FOR SEWER ABATEMENT 469 WASHINGTON ST., SMITH**

Mr. Mattson explains that this homeowner's mother lives with them and has dementia. Apparently she turned the water on and left it which resulted in a high bill. The homeowner is asking the Commission to consider abating the sewer portion of the bill as it never entered the sewer. Mr. Mattson's staff has calculated normal usage and how much the abatement should be. The homeowner is willing to pay all of the water charges. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to abate the sewer charges for the water that did not enter the sewer system and to only charge the average sewer charges while all of water must be paid for. Second by William Abbott. Vote 5-0-0.

#### **WESTON & SAMPSON PROPOSAL FOR SEPTAGE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Fasanello asks if the facility is making money and the answer is yes. Mr. Abbott questions why they suggested not to expand the facility and Mr. Mattson explains that our consultant feels that the piping that is there can be reconfigured and able to gain space. Mr. Abbott feels this should save a lot of money and Mr. Mattson responds that the expansion was the most expensive part. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to approve the not to exceed \$28,700 proposal for consulting services related to the septage facility improvements by Weston and Sampson. Second by William Abbott. Vote 5-0-0.

#### **7:15 APPT. JOHN HASENJAEGER, RE WELLHEAD PROTECTION**

Mr. Hasenjaeger says he would like to offer the Board an opportunity to purchase 126,000 square feet of property he owns that would protect our aquifer. He provides a plan to show the location on the land. Mr. Spillane asks if the property is buildable and Mr. Hasenjaeger says yes, if there a street or private way put in. He shows the land from across the street, by Washington Well #5 to Eleanor Road behind the Parlon's house. Someone approached him expressing interest in purchasing the property but he wants the Board to be aware of the opportunity to protect the aquifer. He says before he does any more he wanted to see if the Board wanted to come up with an interest in purchase or land swap. He does not wish to apply any pressure just an open dialogue. Mr. Spillane asks if it falls into the NSTAR right of way and Mr. Hasenjaeger says there is a very

wide easement and his property goes right up to it. Mr. Hasenjaeger then speaks of the State grant for land acquisition that Mr. Mattson told him about and says that this would give 50% reimbursement and feels it might be worth exploring. Mr. Abbott asks what the terms of the grant are and Mr. Mattson says they will reimburse under 50% up to \$350,000 if it meets their criteria. Mr. Fasanello asks what the assessed value of the property is and Mr. Hasenjaeger says he does not know. Mr. Fettig speaks of the elevation, he says this property is 240 and our wells are 198 which is quite a bit downhill. Mr. Hasenjaeger says he is looking for \$490,000 and with the grant the Town could get this property for \$240,000. Mr. Mattson asks if this is the former Loring parcel and Mr. Hasenjaeger says yes. Mr. Mattson tells of the IEP report from years past which identified 3 parcels and he believes this was one of them for the town to purchase for aquifer protection. Mr. Spillane asks how much of a rush he is in to sell as we are stretched right now. Mr. Mattson says he is guessing if it qualified in the 80's for the grant it would qualify now. Mr. Spillane says it is the last piece of property that abuts our water supply. Mr. Fasanello then speaks of the Obama Administration soon to be charging interest for municipal bonds for revenue. Mr. Abbott asks if the State would appraise the property for the purpose of the grant and Mr. Mattson responds that they would work off of our appraisals and we would just have to show the purchase price. Mr. Abbott asks under what conditions we would qualify for the grant and Mr. Mattson says it needs to meet selective criteria which would be the same as Jarvis Farm. It appears that all Board members are interested in the parcel and Mr. Mattson says it could be counted toward mitigation or minimization. The Board will take this offer under advisement. Mr. Hasenjaeger says he is willing to walk the site with anyone who is interested.

### **7:30 MR. MACKINNON, WESTON & SAMPSON RE: AL MARHAMA ISLAMIC CEMETERY**

Mr. Mattson says the Board retained the services of this consultant to investigate the groundwater movements at the proposed cemetery site on Route 1. Mr. MacKinnon says he was hired to oversee the project proponent's test pit and boring sites. He says the communication was broken at times but it was finally done. He shows how the water is flowing away from the capture area and reports that he feels that there is potential threat to contamination of Zone 2. Mr. Turner speaks of the proponent cutting down some of the high area and what that would do to change things. Mr. Fettig says they would have no right to do this unless they owned the property and Mr. Spillane adds that they would need to get permits to do this. Mr. MacKinnon says he would be happy to evaluate this if it comes up. There is discussion on Mr. MacKinnon's statement that this groundwater is flowing north and will eventually go into Cedar Swamp. Mr. Fasanello asks how deep the monitor wells were and Mr. MacKinnon answers 30 feet, so he is then asked if he knows what happens at 35' or 40' or if the soil changed at this depth. Mr. MacKinnon goes on to explain that this is an unconfined aquifer where conditions remain similar. Mr. Fasanello questions how he knows and Mr. MacKinnon says this is his professional opinion to which Mr. Fasanello says then he cannot be 100% sure and Mr. MacKinnon agrees. Mr. Turner then speaks of Walpole being a sole source aquifer where all water travels in different directions. Mr. Mattson says he does not believe it would be considered sole source in this day because of the Quabbin Reservoir. Mr. Turner speaks of faults in the stone and the potential for shifting. Mr. Mattson says this would not change the source. Mr. Spillane says nothing is 100%. Mr. Hasenjaeger speaks of the contamination of our system by Metal Bellows across the street from this property and there were all kinds of clay strata. Mr. Mattson says this conversation was not in the scope of Mr. MacKinnon's charge, he was just charged with overseeing the work of the proponent and to report his findings back to this Board. Mr. Fettig says he would like to go on record in that he just read a book called "Being Mortal" by Atul Gawandi who speaks of the medicines being used to keep people alive when it may be more proper to let the person decide if they want to be alive (quality of life). The book mentioned the drugs being used for this (he counted 24) and the thought that they would disintegrate in the body when they could dissipate into the ground. Mr. MacKinnon says there would be a very large travel time. Mr. Abbott speaks of an outline of Zone 2 at 180 days of no recharge and the fact that the groundwater flow would change its path. Mr. Spillane confirms that the bottom line is that the area is safe and Mr. MacKinnon responds that nothing is 100%. Mr. Fasanello says a plus is that the clients have agreed to concrete vaults. There is discussion on this. Mr. Mattson says we want to get as close to 100% as possible and asks Mr. MacKinnon if there is anything on the Town's part that could get them closer to this 100%. Mr. MacKinnon speaks of the data gaps and says they could drill to the bedrock and confirm this to be an unconfined aquifer. Mr. Fasanello asks how they drill and Mr. MacKinnon answers that they use an auger.

Drill techniques are discussed. Mr. MacKinnon says there is a risk to everything and recommends putting in monitoring wells for periodic monitoring. Mr. Hasenjaeger says he previously worked in a cemetery that had three ponds and all fish and animals died. He feels the vaults do nothing as roots etc. break down the vaults. Mr. Spillane says we hired an expert and he did his job. Mr. Fasanello says we may need more data. Mr. MacKinnon is thanked.

**BD. OF APPEALS REQUEST FOR COMMENTS 263 HIGH PLAIN ST. VARIANCE, GOURDOUKIS**

Information is reviewed and this is a read and noted.

**WATER MANAGEMENT ACT**

Mr. Mattson says he and Mr. Abbott attended the SWIMMI meeting that took place in Sharon last week. Mr. Abbott says based on what he heard that we would want to be a Tier 1. Mr. Fasanello asks about future development. Mr. Mattson explains when projections are done the MAPC population projections are taken into account using land not yet developed. He agrees with Mr. Abbott that we should remain a Tier 1. Discussion is held. Mr. Mattson says water use is lower today than it was 5 years ago. He adds that over the past few years, in a 365 day period there was 2.11 mgd, 2.03 mgd and 2.25 mgd; so we have not gone over the proposed 2.53 mgd. He tells of the upcoming outside water use restrictions and their opposition to sewer connections for recharge purposes.

**Motion Made** by Roger Turner to adjourn. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.