

March 26, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

Present: James Taylor, Kevin Muti, Roger Turner, Patrick Fasanello and Ken Fettig. Also, Richard Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water, Scott Gustafson, Asst. Supt. of Sewer and Water and Bob O'Brien, DPW Director.

7:00 PUBLIC MEETING – TANK LOCATION

Present for this meeting are engineers from Wright Pierce, Rich Protasowicki and Laurie Ruzala. Also present are abutters of the proposed Old Post Road site that have signed in. Mr. Mattson gives a brief summary of how we have gotten to this point. He says the tank plans were in the Town's 5 year capital plan and went through the budget process. It was clearly noted at the Spring Annual Town Meeting and subsequently favorably voted that the plan was to site the tank at the Old Post Road site. A contract was then secured with Wright Pierce. There was nothing secretive about this and nothing went on behind closed doors. He feels that anyone in this room who claims to not have known this in his opinion is being less than truthful. Mr. Fasanello says he is going to recuse himself as an abutter to the area. Mr. O'Brien of 33 Alton Street questions why abutters were not personally notified and he is told it was not required. Mr. Protasowicki gives an overview of how they had gotten to the point they are at now. He explains that this site was chosen because it is where it would be easier to build, it is a virgin site, and more cost effective. They got to the design stage and are now taking comments from the citizens. Ron Olsen of 22 Merrick St. says the location makes sense however the underground watershed has already caused basement problems and he is afraid that the additional tank will cause an increased flooding problem. He feels most of the recharging should be taken away. They already have lousy water pressure which would lead him to believe that an increase in the height of the tank would make sense. He asks how much area it would cover and Ms. Ruzala answers 10,000 square feet. Mr. Protasowicki says they are listening to concerns and wishes to take into account these concerns in designing the tank. Mr. Mattson says one option and he is not sure how feasible it is, would be to raise the grade of the site to drain into the piping system. Jamie Rice of 37 Alton St. speaks of this be described as a virgin site. He feels it makes sense to attempt to preserve the natural land. He says seems more philosophical to use the High Plain St. land. He adds that they were first told the tank could not be built at the High Plain St. site and now they are saying it is possible. Mr. Protasowicki responds that you can build it anywhere however it costs money and they were tasked to look at the Old Post Road site. Mr. Rice says he understands the concern of holding up 20,000 people for about 30 but he hopes the Board would consider to at least look at the old site. Janice Valente of 45 Alton St. asks who will take care of the grass and trees as the others dried up and Mr. Mattson responds the Town of Walpole. There are questions and answers on who would man the site and if there is a plan in place should there be some type of disaster. Mr. Mattson says he personally has no plan for evacuation. Mr. Taylor says the Town will be checking it. Mr. Mattson says the Water Dept. makes daily visits as required by the State. Nancy O'Brien of 33 Alton St. responds that if this is so then how did this area become such a disaster. There is then discussion and complaints over the promises made when the Duffy tank went in and the poor condition of the area. Mr. Muti accepts responsibility and admits to being guilty of making constant visits to the site due to a full time work. He says he will become more diligent in checking this and better security. Ms. O'Brien says shame on the abutters also as they also let things go and the Town is lucky that no kids were hurt at this site. She says she often walks in the area and became very angry when she saw inside the fence. Rita Krueger of 27 Alton St. asks if we would reconsider putting the tank where the towers are now. Mr. Muti says all options are open right now. Ms. Krueger then asks

what the process would be and Mr. Muti says to begin with they would need more money to and rehire Wright Pierce. The neighbors agree they are concerned of their property values. They also ask if there is any recourse should they develop water issues as it would not be their fault. Mr. Turner says he attended the site meeting and was very impressed by the comments that were made. He frequents this site as he also works with the Conservation Commission and is familiar with the area and he also has a strong understanding of rain, groundwater and surface water. Mr. Turner would like to commend the Water Department staff for the clean up efforts that have been done so far at this site. He would like the grading of this site looked at and feels we are on the right track in trying to address the concerns of the abutters. He feels the High Plain St. site is small in comparison and there is lots of "honeycomb" piping and site work would be extensive and costly. Also to be considered is the public safety factor and the length of time to get things back on line. He believes once the project is complete and there is more surveillance the people will be proud. The audience strongly disagrees with Mr. Turner. Mr. O'Brien speaks of when the Duffy tower was built what was shown on paper isn't working as there is hardpan. Mr. Mattson asks if the concern is runoff overland or groundwater because hardpan has nothing to do with groundwater. Mr. Mattson adds that in terms of existing drainage, because it is site plan approval it will open up the entire site. If there are any deficiencies the Planning Board would require corrections moving forward. Mr. Fasanello says that he does not think all our eggs should be put in one basket. He feels the High Plain St. site would have more security and a brighter area. Mr. Muti tells Mr. Fasanello that he is out of order as he recused himself. Mr. Fasanello says he is using his constitutional rights and speaking as a neighboring abutter. Mr. Fasanello then asks if administration is aware of any other structures to be placed at the Old Post Road site. Mr. Mattson answers that there are plans for a 12 x 16 communication building and tower. Mr. Fasanello asks for height and Mr. Mattson responds that he does not know. Mr. Nottebart of the Planning Board would like to commend the Sewer & Water Commission for this session. He too went on the site visit and was joined by Mr. Mattson and about 16 Town Hall members and about 14 abutters. He says problems were admitted to and there was discussion on looking at mitigation and an alternative site. He suggests abutters have input on the communication tower. Mr. Taylor says the graffiti is an eyesore which needs to be cleaned up and the fence needs to be fixed. Mr. Muti says it is obvious that there is a maintenance problem however the Board needs to make a decision on site location and it looks like more information is needed as to how to resolve this. Mr. Protasowicki is hearing groundwater concerns and explains how regulations are much tighter now. There is then discussion on the trees that were planted, not maintained and subsequently died. Ms. Krueger says she had requested the trees be put in her yard and she would take care of them but her request was denied. Mr. Mattson explains that the former tree warden had advised against the locations as they would be starved for sunlight and will die which they did, he feels that putting the plantings on private property is an options. Ms. O'Brien feels that there is nothing beautiful about a water tower and we should learn from past mistakes. Mr. Mattson responds that Wright Pierce made no mistake as they were scoped to look at the Old Post Road site for this new project. Mr. O'Brien says there is a major problem with flooding and erosion pits. He speaks of the permeability factor, field testing and saturation. There is discussion on infiltration, hard pan, drains and trenches to direct offsite drainage. Mr. Protasowicki says there are new regulations in place that have protocols to follow for stormwater. It is asked where they should be going with their concerns. Mr. Fettig suggests taking their concerns to the Planning Board as this would be the Board that would approve and/or set conditions on the site plan. He says this Commission is tasked with providing safe water. Mr. Mattson suggests that the Commissioners request that Wright Pierce look at the High Plain St. site and give their opinion as to the best site. Mr. Muti asks what their scope would be and Mr. Mattson responds it would be a complete engineering study or constructability study. He adds that the High Plain St. site has brick and mortar foundation from 1918 that is still in place which was is part of the reasoning that this site was not looked at. He says anything can be built anywhere it is a matter of what level of effort you want to

put in to it. Mr. Fettig says he goes along with Mr. Turner's point of taking down the old tanks to construct the new causes concern of having enough water. Mr. Mattson explains that the way the system is designed the High Plain Street tanks are the "heart and soul" of the entire community, as it is the main storage source. The hydraulic design dictates that if there is no storage in this zone there would not be enough water. He adds that the logistics need to be looked at also and talks of the trip to Somerset to watch the erection of a similar tank with the large cement panels. He is not confident that the High Plain St. site is practical. Ms. Krueger asks if there are any additional plans at the Old Post Road site within the next 5 to 10 years such as another tank. Mr. Mattson says there are no plans to construct any additional water tanks for at least the next 20 years as the town is pretty built out. There is further discussion. DPW Director Bob O'Brien states this is an important project and water utilities are exempt from zoning and therefore the town could have circumvented this process. He would like to point out there was nothing underhanded done her. Chairman Muti wraps up this discussion and tells all the Planning Board will continue to hear this in April.

Motion Made by James Taylor to accept the minutes of March 12, 2012. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Mattson says he has asked Finance Director, Mark Good, to attend this meeting to discuss the possibility of establishing a depreciation account. The Finance Committee has expressed concerns on how the retained earnings are being used to lower the rate. He reminds that the FinCom has asked to meet with us on the articles on April 5, at 7:30. He has asked Mr. Good to talk about establishing a depreciation account and build it into the rate. Mr. Good provides a handout and explains that the depreciation account would be an allocation of the cost of doing business as equipment wears out, there would be something set aside to pay for this cost. Mr. Fasanello asks what has been done in the past and Mr. Good responds that it is pay as you go. Mr. Muti asks if the entire would work like this and Mr. Good says it is a good point and all departments should however they are looking at water and sewer because it is a large money maker. If recognized you can put money in a stabilization fund and let it build up. Mr. Fasanello says it is still coming from our retained earnings and Mr. Good says yes, however if an account is set up it can then be recognized and built into the rate. Mr. Good explains that a company called Asset Max inventoried and depreciated everything and came up with numbers using today, gave it a life and put it on the books. Mr. Fettig says we sort of have a depreciation fund where we borrow rather than use retained earnings. There is discussion and it is asked if other towns do this. Mr. Good responds that he imagines so. There is further discussion and Mr. Mattson says we can at least tell the FinCom that we met with the Finance Director to discuss this. Mr. Good says it is very hard to explain this to the general public. Mr. Good is thanked.

2012 WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Mr. Mattson reports that the groundwater levels are at 30% of norm. They should be at 12" and currently are less than 4". The groundwater levels are 84" on average, we are typically at 72" and we are one foot lower than the past 5 years. He adds that the deficit could be made up in one weekend if we had heavy rains. The correspondence before them tonight is his proposal for the time being and he would let the people know that it may lead to greater restrictions. Mr. Muti says he would like to see a preemptive strike letting everyone know via the newspaper and the web that there is potential for a complete ban on outside watering. This would allow the people to conserve now or may have to go to dire needs. Mr. Mattson will compose something for publishing stating that due to the lack of

precipitation there may be a more stringent restriction on outside watering however we are currently expecting the annual odd/even mandatory water management policy.

INFLOW AND INFILTRATION CONTRACT WITH WESTON AND SAMPSON

Mr. Fasanello asks how much of the system has been photographed and Mr. Mattson says about 80%. Mr. Fettig asks being that this is year 6, how many years we are committed to. Mr. Mattson answers that we are not committed and it will probably stop after this because after phase 5 they did not comp up with a lot. He is hopeful they will comp up with more in phase 6 and feels as long as the MWRA is giving us the money we should continue. Currently there is about \$324,000 in this line, 60% is interest free loan and 40% is grant. Mr. Muti asks who wrote the agreement and Mr. Mattson says Weston and Sampson did. Mr. Fettig asks if our legal people looked at it and Mr. Mattson says previously they did the agreement is the same year to year with the different phases being the change in the agreement.

Motion Made by James Taylor to authorize the Town Administrator to sign this agreement on behalf of the Sewer & Water Commission. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0.

**CONCOM REQ. FOR COMMENTS ORDER OF CONDITIONS AMENDMENT
100 NEPONSET ST.**

The Board agrees that there is no action required by them at this time.

**P.B. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS, LOTS 10 & 11 CROSSWOODS PATH DEFINITIVE
SUBDIVISION**

The plan is reviewed and discussed. Mr. Fasanello would like to see the 20' trail easement changed to show as a trail and utility easement at the end of the cul de sac on Boulder Trail. A letter will be sent requesting this.

2012 SANITARY SURVEY

Mr. Mattson explains that this survey is performed every year. His employee noted all deficiencies and it was given to the Health Agent, Robin Chapell who assigned her assistant Gail Nixon to go out and report back. Mr. Muti says he would like a report by next week and asks that it be put on the next agenda.

SITE PLAN DECISION, WITCHER & WITCHER (MINUTEMAN)

This is the decision of the Planning Board and no action by this Board is required at this time.

CORRECTED NSTARPLAN AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Mr. Mattson says he spoke with Mr. Hayes of NSTAR regarding Washington Wells #2 and #3 not showing of plan of vegetation control. Mr. Hayes told him they would come out and located them on their GPS and make them sensitive areas. Sensitive areas are defined as DEP's Zone 1 and no pesticides are to be used within a 400' radius. Mr. Turner says the Conservation Commission has also requested this.

MWRA I/I ASSISTANCE UPDATE

This is the allocation that Mr. Mattson had previously spoken about and no action is required.

SOUTH WALPOLE SEWER ODOR – 1658 WASHINGTON ST

Mr. Mattson explains where this house is located and they were previously unable to install a filter on their stack due to a configuration problem. Mr. Mattson responded to an email that Mr. Morrison had sent complaining about the odor and has since installed the filter via improvising and the one way valve. He has not heard anything further.

Mr. Mattson says he would like to get a sense from the Board what they would like to do with regard to the water tank location. He is recommending developing a scope to steer Wright Pierce as to what the Board would like and how much they would like done at the High Plain St. site. Mr. Muti says he would like to know what we are asking them to do. Mr. Mattson says hydraulically it would work his concern is geotechnical. There is a brick foundation that was stable by 1918 standards. There is further discussion and Mr. Mattson still believes that Old Post Road is the optimum site. He reminds that because it is on the same parcel any deficiencies from 1991 will be revisited by the Planning Board and be required to be addressed. Mr. Fasanello asks how it would drain and Mr. Mattson answers down Old Post Road. The grade of the tank could be raised to pipe offsite; at the current grade it would be impossible. Stormwater regulations require recharge of the groundwater. There is further discussion on the water problems. Mr. Fettig says we have the luxury of a little time and there is no need to into things. We should take our time to figure out what makes the best sense. Mr. Turner says if the 3 tanks come down you will lose capacity for a time. There are 3 concrete structures, there is a foundation that was left and we need the space required for the cranes. Mr. Fettig says he assumes it would have to be taller and Mr. Mattson says yes. It is asked what the pleasure of the Board is and Mr. Fasanello says he feels we owe to the people to investigate both sites. Mr. Muti asks if we should pull the article and Mr. Mattson asks if we would do that for about 15 residents. Mr. Mattson asks Mr. Fasanello were he not an abutter or a Commissioner what he believes would be the right site and Mr. Fasanello says Old Post Road however we owe the abutters the courtesy of investigating the other site. Mr. Taylor says he is willing to investigate as long as there is no more money spent. Mr. Muti suggests getting an estimate of what it would cost with the goal being getting it by April 9 as they need to make a decision before the Planning Board meeting of April 19. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to have Wright Pierce provide an additional full blown estimate for engineering costs for an investigation on putting the water storage tank on the High Plain St. site. They should tell us what it needs to be done to the site to make a viable site and what the cost will be to determine this. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Mr. Muti questions Mr. Fasanello about this second as he recused himself and asks if he is an abutter or not and Mr. Fasanello answers that he is more than 300 feet and is not giving up his constitutional rights to speak. Mr. Fettig says this will not tell what the actual cost would be and Mr. Mattson says no. Vote on the motion 5-0-0.

Motion Made by Ken Fettig to adjourn. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:55.

Accepted April 9, 2012