

April 9, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, April 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

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

Motion Made by James Taylor to accept the minutes of March 26, 2012. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Mr. Mattson reports that the DEP called him to speak about the moderate drought conditions and asking what if any plans were in place should conditions worsen. Mr. Mattson told them about the public notice we had put out and they seemed pleased with it. Mr. Muti says he knows the weather will dictate but asks if the DEP has any anticipation. Mr. Mattson responds that the DEP would be the ones to make a declaration and there are different stages to declare for a drought. He says we need to be cautious and watch groundwater levels. Currently we are not pumping a lot. Mr. Fettig confirms that the groundwater is quite low already and the answer is yes.

Mr. Mattson also tells how he and Commissioner Fettig attended the Finance Committee meeting last Thursday. Articles 7 and 8 were favorably voted. With regard to Article 9, the Finance Committee expressed concerns over retained earnings being used to stabilize the rate. Therefore they voted to use \$125,000 instead of \$250,000 for rate stabilizing. This would increase the rate by 3.2% or an average of \$18 per year. Mr. Fettig says they actually thought we should increase the rate more. Mr. Mattson adds that the FinCom felt that if we continue to artificially lower the rate then we are not being fiscally responsible. He explains the theory using proposition 2 ½ and if this is used to set the water rate the people cannot complain. Mr. Fasanello says we have also been criticized for having such high retained earnings and the citizens should know that the Finance Committee is the cause of the increase, not us. He says this Board has the sole authority to set the rate and Mr. Mattson answers but the FinCom has sole authority over the Town's finances and their recommendation will be the main motion. Mr. Fasanello says they cannot set the water rate. There is further discussion. Mr. Fettig says his view of this discussion is from a rational standpoint the FinCom felt we were dipping on the reserve more than we should and we should increase the rate more. He adds, this is not to say he agrees or disagrees, it is what the FinCom felt.

COST PROPOSAL OF ENGINEERING SERVICES AT HIGH PLAIN ST. TANK SITE

The cost for the additional services is \$32,000 or a \$26,000 net increase. Mr. Muti asks how much has been spent on Old Post Road already and Mr. Mattson answers approximately \$54,000. Mr. Muti reminds we would be spending this additional money with no guarantee. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig not to spend the additional money and to go with the original plan of putting the new water storage tank at the Old Post Road site. Second by James Taylor. Mr. Fasanello says we should not put all of our infrastructure in one spot. If there was ever a major catastrophe we could lose a large part of our system. Mr. Mattson says the Planning Board will address the concerns of the abutters which appear to be

mostly drainage. Mr. Fasanello argues that we don't know the cost for drainage and the abutters are going to ask for everything, including a drain line. Mr. Mattson responds that a drain line is a "no brainer" and there are pros and cons to both sites. Mr. Fasanello brings up the antenna issues and Mr. Mattson says the antenna issues have nothing to do with the tank. He adds that the Old Post Road site is by far the easier site. Vote on the motion 4-1-0, Fasanello against.

Mr. Muti says we will see what the Planning Board says now. Mr. Taylor says he wants to see that the site is cleaned up and Mr. Mattson says that this has already been done. Mr. Fettig says he was there and the gate was open so he walked through and found the site is ready to go. Mr. Fasanello asks that our own staff at least scrape and prime the rust patches on the steel tank. Mr. Mattson says that depends on how high they are. He is having an inspector come in for pre maintenance and evaluation.

BOARD OF APPEALS REQUEST FOR COMMENTS R-TECHNOLOGIES, 160 ELM ST.

There is discussion as to what the business actually is and what area it is in. Mr. Fasanello says we should have them come in. Mr. Turner says this whole area falls into the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission. He adds, that the plan is about 50 years old and he believes the building is already there and he is told that is not what the Town Engineer is saying. Mr. Muti asks that a letter be sent to the ZBA concurring with the Town Engineer's comments, ask for a current as built plan, request that all information regarding this also be addressed to the Sewer & Water Commission and telling them that it is the intention of this Board to invite the applicant to our next meeting. This Board's next meeting is scheduled for April 23 and therefore we must ask the ZBA to allow us to reserve comment until after this date.

YOP FOR CSX

Mr. Mattson explains that this is the standard annual filing for an operational plan and they are bound by law not to use chemicals in the aquifer area.

FINAL PHASE IV RIP FOR 100 NEPONSET ST.

All are told that the complete report is available at the library if anyone is interested.

MEMBRANE UNITS – INTENTION TO PURCHASE NOTIFICATION

Mr. Mattson says this is a commitment to purchase letter once it is approved by Town Meeting. The company would not hold the units unless a commitment was made.

NOTIFICATION OF OPEN MEETING LAW TRAINING SESSION

Mr. Taylor and Mr. O'Brien will be attending this meeting.

2012 SANITARY SURVEY FINDINGS

This is a response from the Board of Health with regard to the annual sanitary survey that the Water Department conducts. The Board discusses it and feels it is not very informative. It is asked that this remain on the agenda and a memo be sent to the Board of Health asking for a follow up report once they have completed their investigation.

Mr. Fasanello asks why we cannot have granite posts on the signs that say entering Walpole. Mr. O'Brien says he will look into it.

Mr. Fettig says he would like to apologize for not speaking up at the last meeting. A resident that was present for the water tank public meeting implied that our drinking water is not up to standard and he feels he should have spoken up and objected.

Motion Made by Roger Turner to adjourn. Second by James Taylor. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Accepted May 14, 2012