

October 22, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Facility, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: James Taylor, Kevin Muti, Patrick Fasanello and Ken Fettig. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water and Michael Boynton, Town Administrator.

Mr. Taylor says he reviewed the minutes and asks if anyone has any problems. Mr. Fasanello says yes, on page 2 the word rays is used twice and it should be arrays. This will be changed. **Motion Made** by James Taylor to accept the minutes of September 24, 2012 with corrections made as indicated above. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 3-0-1, Muti abstained.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Mattson reports that the new membranes have been installed at the Willis Treatment Plant, however it remains off line as they are still optimizing. They must perform VOC and bacterial tests before the DEP will allow them to put it on line. He also says his crew is performing fall flushing mostly the dead end hydrants right now. Mr. Fettig asks who approves the installation of the membranes and Mr. Mattson responds they take the finished water and send it to RI Analytical for testing before the DEP allows it back on line. Mr. Mattson says he has nothing else new to report.

NORTH STREET SEWER LEGAL ISSUES AND CLARIFICATION

Included in the Board's package is a letter from Mr. Viano relating to this matter and reaffirming his commitment to create a homeowner's association for the private sewer main making them responsible for repair and maintenance in perpetuity, the public main will be deeded and dedicated to the Town for public use and/or extension thus making it the responsibility of the Town of Walpole. Mr. Muti says he feels what Mr. Viano wrote is what we previously agreed upon. Mr. Fasanello speaks of the email attached to the correspondence where the Town Engineer expresses concerns over issues such as ownership, deed and dedication, insurance, indemnification and legal responsibility. Mr. Viano responds that he submitted his correspondence to clarify this email after meeting with Town Engineer Ms. Walker and Mr. Mattson. He says he is looking to start building one week from today. Ms. Walker had concern of a street opening permit and the issue of bonding as he will have to restore North Street to its current state. Mr. Viano says Ms. Walker suggested asking sewer and water what would be needed to insure PJ Hayes in case of damage as he will be doing the work. Mr. Mattson says the drainlayer license is adequate. Mr. Fasanello says the Board needs something from Ms. Walker stating that she is satisfied with this letter. Mr. Viano says he sat down with her and Mr. Mattson and they both agreed that it was satisfactory. Mr. Fasanello says it should be in writing. Mr. Mattson says he was present when Mr. Viano met with Ms. Walker and she was satisfied with the letter provided that the Board. Mr. Mattson asks the position of the Board with regard to inflow and infiltration. Mr. Viano says he would think it would apply to the public portion but not the private. Mr. Mattson disagrees; he feels the town would be "on the hook" for the public and he would be responsible for the private. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to send a letter to the Planning Board and Town Engineer stating that this Commission is satisfied with the letter dated October 15, 2012 from Mr. Viano with regard to Northridge Ventures which reaffirms the conditions for the sewer installation of two force mains on North Street, one which will remain private through a homeowners association and one public for future use by the Town. Also, the requirement of this Board to address inflow and infiltration must be addressed as a condition of the approval. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 4-0-0.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION, GARR, 92 LEWIS AVE

Mr. Garr has written a letter to the Board asking for consideration on his water bill due to an excess of water used due to a hose being left on. The office staff reviewed records and submitted a log of what had transpired over the

time period in question and tallied the amount of water and sewer used that was not consistent with their average consumption. The Board is in agreement that they must adhere to their policy that all water passing through the meter must be paid for whether used or wasted. However it is clear to the Board that all of the water did not enter the municipal sewer. All information was reviewed and discussed. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to notify Mr. Garr of 92 Lewis Ave. that all water must be paid for. Average sewer usage is calculated and the rest is to be abated which is an excess sewer charge of \$247.94. Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 4-0-0.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION WALPOLE COUNTRY CLUB

Mr. Fettig is recusing himself from this discussion. All documents submitted by Walpole Country Club's controller, Thomas Jackson are reviewed and discussed. All back up information provided by the Water Department staff is also reviewed. The Board is in agreement that the excess water did not enter the sewer system and as in past policy all of the water must be paid for. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to abate \$4,716.26 of excess sewer charges as calculated by the Water Department staff. Second by James Taylor. Vote 3-0-1, Fettig abstained.

7:15 APPT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RE ROUTE 1A

Paul Millette, Economic Chairman; Stephanie Mercandetti, Economic Director; Selectman Mike Berry are all present for this discussion. Mr. Millette speaks of the three committees that were formed for the various sections of town that are being investigated for the potential of encouraging economic development. His committee was studying Route 1A and more specifically the Industrial Park. They are looking into the possibility of bringing the sewer here as a better selling point for development. Mr. Berry then speaks. He talks about the grant that Ms. Mercandetti was able to obtain for the town and with this in mind they looked at the potential of sewerage the Industrial Park with the obstacle being capacity. The sewer stops at Raffael's and there is a private line owned by John DiSangro in the Industrial Park. He feels there is unrealized tax revenue through untapped potential. They are here tonight to initiate the next step to determine what can be done with the remaining land. This meant it was time to begin a conversation with the Sewer & Water Commission to determine what it would take to sewer the industrial Park. Mr. Taylor asks the size of the DiSangro pipe and Mr. Mattson says it is an 8" and it is a matter of engineering hydraulics. Ms. Mercandetti says there are 2 options; we could pick up the line on Main Street which would enable others from Raffael's to the Industrial Park. However this would be quite costly and there is really not much on the opposite side of the street that would be built on and need sewer. The second option would be to just sewer the park via Mr. DiSangro's sewer line. Mr. Taylor asks who will pay for this and Mr. Berry says based on cost estimates it would be about \$2 million to sewer 1A and about \$1.3 for just the industrial park. Ms. Mercandetti says everything is preliminary. Mr. Mattson asks if Mr. DiSangro has been approached and Mr. Berry responds that Mr. DiSangro has attended 2 out of 3 of their meetings. Mr. Mattson asks if we are sure the sewer line in question has not been deeded and dedicated. Mr. Muti asks that this be followed up on. There is further discussion on where the sewer pipe should go. Bill Hamilton is present and he says he feels if the sewer is put in Route 1A it would encourage the sludge dump subject to resurface. Mr. Muti says he likes the fact that they are focusing on Industrial Road and he would like to keep it going forward. To do this there are issues that need to be ironed out. Mr. Boynton says it is a unique situation, with the economy changed over the years. The industrial park is underutilized and we could bring back business and the tax rate down by sewerage through grants, funds, and betterments. The time needs to be spent researching for answers. If 1A is looked at this would give future access to Hitching Post, Clarkson and Bucket Mill. Mr. Boynton feels the Industrial Park has opportunities for the Town to pick up tax revenue. Mr. Muti feels we need to better market ourselves in the area and the fact that there is no sewer is a sticking point. He would like to see good clean business here. Mr. Boynton responds that trucking companies do not have a big need for sewer. A good clean business needs sewer. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to go on record that the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners is in favor of a sewer extension in the 1A Industrial Park. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 4-0-0.

7:45 APPT PAUL MILLETTE, RE: GEORGIA DR/BARBARA RD. SEWER ODOR

Many residents of this area are also present for this meeting. Mr. Mattson goes over the past history of this problem. He says although they have put in new sewer lines in the Whiting, Irving, Towle, Irving and South

Street area, putting carbon filter “odor hogs” on many of the stacks of the surrounding house, installing a vortex unit in the manhole at Georgia and Barbara Road thus costing the Town +/- \$260,000, the problem of the odor remains. Based on his information it worsens whenever the Preserve is discharging their sewer pump station. He can restrict their discharge to night time only but it will still occur and summer time would be worse with the windows open. He adds there are 15 stack vents that have the filters but there are another 15 who do not and he feels it only takes 1 to cause this problem. He feels the only option is to approach the management corporation for the Preserve and insist that they install a chemical addition unit. Mr. Fettig says this should have been taken care of when Gatehouse was built and we accepted the sewer into our system. He feels we should insist that they take care of this problem. Mr. Mattson responds that initially no one knew this would happen and we did fight the hook up and we lost in court. Mr. Mattson explains the sequence of events that have transpired and Mr. Fettig says then we have no alternative other than to insist that they install a chemical addition unit. Mr. Mattson says at our last meeting with representatives from the Preserve it was left that we would install the vortex unit and the problem persisted then they would talk about the chemical addition. Mr. Millette says from their perspective nothing has worked and masking the odor will not work. All the remedies tried will break down and need replacement. He is concerned with the masking and asks if it is possible to keep the sewage moving. Mr. Mattson says it was believed that the vents and vortex would be a permanent solution and it turned out not to be and so the next permanent solution is to treat it with chemicals. Mr. Fasanella says it is time to have a conversation with Gatehouse. He says chemical treatment is not a mask but rather odor control. He asks if there is anyway to force the issue if they balk at it. Mr. Boynton says he could smell it on Thursday. He is asking for a motion to pursue remedies with Gatehouse informally and if necessary legally. The key is to get the odor out before it gets there. The Town can demonstrate that they have taken the proper steps to mitigate the problem as the Town has been very responsive. Mr. Taylor asks if we are positive that Gatehouse is the problem and the answer is yes. **Motion Made** by Kevin Muti to authorize our Superintendent to approach Gatehouse with regard to the odor problem and the installation of a chemical treatment unit. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 4-0-0. Mr. Mattson says in the meantime he can have them pump only at night. It is asked if the problem could be moved further down to South Street by installing another vortex unit. It is then explained that the problem needs resolving not movement. Mr. Millette says he would like Weston and Sampson to come in and look at redesign of the sewers and it is explained to him why this would be impractical. Mr. Fettig suggests that Mr. Mattson get a rough cost estimate for Gatehouse to install a septic system with their own treatment plant. Mr. Boynton responds that the court has already determined that they have a right to connect to the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Millette says he would like to keep the communication open and would like to hear other engineering alternatives. He would also like a formal log of complaints and Mr. Mattson says this is already being done. Mr. Millette would also like to see a plan on filter replacement.

8:15 APPT., JOHN WALSH, RE: HIGH OAKS IV SEWER PUMP STATION

Mr. Walsh had requested this appointment however he never responded regarding his availability and is not present tonight. Mr. Boynton asks to speak to it however Mr. Fasanella says as Chairman he will move on to the next agenda item and this can be brought up again at the end of the meeting.

PLANNING BOARD MEMBER CONROY'S CONCERNS RE: IORIO SITE PLAN ISSUES

This is read and noted.

RESIDENT PARLON'S CONCERNS OF NSTAR'S SPRAYING

Mr. Mattson says he has spoken with Mr. Parlon in the past regarding his concerns. He has been provided with the Yearly Operational Plan and given the website. He has tried to drill home that no sensitive areas by law can have mechanical means used. Also they can not come within 100 feet of our wells. Mr. Muti confirms that all information has been provided and Mr. Parlon remains not convinced and Mr. Mattson says yes. The Board is not sure what else they can do.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S FINDINGS OF SATM ARTICLES.

This is read and noted.

EXTENDED WATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT

Mr. Mattson says our interim permit has been extended to 2015. There is some discussion and the permit is read and noted.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. Muti and Mr. Taylor are both in agreement with the document. Mr. Fettig says we have already spoken about item #1.

CHARTER REVIEW – REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

The board of Selectmen held a preliminary workshop in an effort to solicit feedback as to what works and what doesn't with regard to the Town Charter. Mr. Muti says this should not go by the wayside and Board members should look at this and either discuss their thoughts with the Board or provide comment to the Board of Selectmen. It is asked that this be placed on the next agenda.

SEPTAGE FACILITY INFORMATION

Mr. Mattson says that Canton is closing on November 16th although the haulers are campaigning to keep it open via an extension. Haulers have been investigating the use of our facility where there are a couple of glitches. The first is that we are under funded which is most likely something that can be resolved. The other is that there are no intermunicipal agreements in place. To resolve this it is determined that the hauler should be billed directly and if they do not pay they are not allowed to use the facility. For the time being the facility should be manned all of the time until all issues can be addressed.

HIGH OAKS IV SEWER PUMP STATION

Mr. Fasanello says Mr. Walsh had offered the Town \$200,000 in exchange for street acceptance, acceptance of the sewer pump station, and removal of the restriction and endorsement of the new plan for Lot 113. The Board had previously voted not to take ownership of the pump station and he has been doing some research on this issue. He visited the site and talked to the neighbors who did not have any complaints about the station. Lot 113 was designated as a baseball field during site plan approval and they are looking to have that released which would most likely give him two additional lots. Mr. Fasanello continues that in 1994 we voted to accept the pump station which at the time was new. Now it is 20 years old and at the very least we should be demanding money to build and install new pumps. Cost for electricity and cost of pump replacement are discussed. Mr. Boynton suggests if the Board opts to take the station to use the current pumps for their longevity and have the monetary value to replace them in place. He asks for authority to go back to Mr. Walsh and negotiate because if the Board opts to play hardball we will lose. Mr. Fasanello asks how he figures that and Mr. Boynton responds that Mr. Walsh is done building and there is nothing to stop him from just walking away and not doing anything with the pump station. There is some discussion. Mr. Mattson reminds that Mr. Walsh still has an obligation of \$92,760 for inflow and infiltration. He says he spoke to the Board about this at a previous meeting where the Board agreed to allow Mr. Walsh to install the pipe on Stone Street, and complete the sewer connection at Planet Fitness in lieu of payment. The two projects would amount to about \$55,000 however Mr. Boynton reminds that if we were to do it we would have to use prevailing wage and this would most likely bring the cost to the \$92,000 figure. **Motion Made** by Ken Fettig to authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate with Mr. Walsh for an account of \$15,000 to \$20,000 for replacement of each of the pumps at the High Oaks IV sewer pump station and to forego the inflow and infiltration requirement of \$92,760 if he performs the work of the two projects (Stone Street and West Street at the Planet Fitness area). Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 4-0-0. Mr. Boynton will get back to the Board with an update.

Mr. Mattson informs that he will soon be asked to submit his Capital Budget. To refurbish the existing OPR steel tank it will cost \$600,000 to \$700,000 and it will give you a nice paint job but won't correct the booster pump. He is proposing to construct an elevated steel tank which will give everyone in the area an estimated 55 psi. He is also planning to address security for the tanks and wells with fencing.

There is discussion on the conversion back to the formerly potassium hydroxide used from sodium hydroxide. This was originally changed due to a cost factor. However Mr. Mattson expresses concern over the safety of his operators. Mr. Muti sees no reason why we should not switch back and Mr. Taylor agrees.

Mr. Mattson then speaks about his research on removing the dioxane from the water. He says it is only Washington #6 and is quite costly. Mr. Fasanello says it needs to be removed no matter what the cost. Mr. Mattson will investigate further.

Motion Made by Ken Fettig to adjourn. Second by Kevin Muti. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Accepted December 10, 2012