



Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners

John Spillane, Chair
John Hasenjaeger, Clerk
William Abbott, Member
Patrick Fasanello, Member
Pradeep Mishra, Member

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:30 P.M.

VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, January 10, 2022 via Zoom Teleconference. The meeting is called to order by Board Chair John Spillane at 6:30 p.m.

Present at the Meeting:

Sewer and Water Commissioners:

John Spillane, William Abbott, Patrick Fasanello, Pradeep Mishra and John Hasenjaeger (joined the meeting at 6:48 p.m.)

Other Participants:

Scott Gustafson, Sewer & Water Superintendent, Stephen Nunnery, Assistant Sewer & Water Superintendent, Rick Mattson, Director of DPW and Mary Timilty

Abatements (copies included for vote)

Ms. Timilty explains the higher than normal number of abatements is a result of the large number of meter replacements on accounts that have been estimated for over two years due to unsuccessful contact with the residents. Ms. Timilty continues after the meter replacement is done, it is discovered the accounts have been overestimated. Ms. Timilty answers other questions from the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded** by Mr. Spillane to approve the Abatements

Vote 4-0-0

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, William Abbott-Aye, Pradeep Mishra, Aye, Patrick Fasanello, Aye

Minutes of October 25, 2021

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded** by Mr. Fasanello to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021

Vote 4-0-0

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, William Abbott-Aye, Pradeep Mishra, Aye, Patrick Fasanello, Aye

Superintendents Status Report

Mr. Gustafson reports the Delaney Plant results came in for PFAS in December and they came in at 17.4 parts per trillion. This is still a flat line in the 17.5 area so it hasn't gone up or down. Mr. Gustafson provides a filter update for the Delaney filter rehab and once the two filters are sand blasted the project will be complete. The Water Management Act Permit has been issued with an effective date of December 16, 2021 and nothing in the wording was a surprise. Mr. Gustafson updated the Board there was a preliminary meeting with Westin and Sampson at the end of December on the Coach Road sewer extension. Trilimentaines which was discussed at the previous meeting, Mr. Gustafson updates they will be resampled per the sample schedule the first week of February. Mr. Gustafson updated the Board with the treatment options they would start out with if they had to optimize the plant and other options are available also. The water main replacement is still in design and they are waiting on some survey work

to come back on June Street. Mr. Gustafson continues they are expecting to advertise in March with a bid opening in April. Mr. Fasanello asks about the PFAS numbers and Mr. Gustafson explains in detail the two plants and the sample results. Mr. Fasanello asks if there is a plan if the results go into the twenties. Mr. Gustafson explains there is a short term immediate action and that is that you can change the blend of wells that are coming into the plant and explains the process. Mr. Gustafson discusses the long term treatment process options and further discussion is had. Mr. Mishra asks about the American Rescue Fund projects and Mr. Gustafson answers the eligibility is being looked at. Mr. Gustafson states Town Administration is looking at the projects. Mr. Mattson clarifies the determination for eligibility comes from the County and/or the Federal Government and the funds are administered by the Select Board and further discussion is had. Mr. Gustafson comments the projects are being looked at are a redundant line from the central storage tank and he will update the Board once he takes a look at the list. Mr. Fasanello asks about more water storage and Mr. Gustafson answers it all depends on the area. Mr. Gustafson comments we do not want to run into a case that we have too much water storage. Mr. Gustafson continues this could lead to problems with taste, odor and stagnation and could lead to other problems having too much storage and further discussion is had.

Comment Requests #1-Memo From Planning Board Dated December 13, 2021 regarding 130 West Street & 25 Spring Street including revised plans

Mr. Fasanello asks Mr. Gustafson if there are two water lines that go into this property. Mr. Gustafson answers he will have to double check. Mr. Fasanello asks if it is an 8 inch water line coming in off of Old West Street and Mr. Mattson answers it is West Street and it is a 12 inch water line and 8 inch line on Spring Street and it is a loop system.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded** by Mr. Hasenjaeger that the Board has no additional comments on this project beyond what they originally specified.

Vote 5-0-0

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, William Abbott-Aye, Pradeep Mishra, Aye, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-Aye

Correspondence #1 MASSDEP Final Water Management Permit dated 12/16/21

Mr. Gustafson comments there was nothing that was a surprise and the items that require action are well underway. Mr. Mattson comments the permitted volume is more than sufficient to meet our needs for the next 5-10 years. Mr. Hasenjaeger comments about engaging with the MWRA about the possibility of supplemental water connection, future water rights and resource availability for the community going forward. Mr. Hasenjaeger suggests the Board schedule a workshop with the MWRA before any money is spent to have their options clear before the Town Meeting and further discussion is had. Mr. Hasenjaeger discussed the last time around it came out to \$6,000,000 over 30 years which is \$200,000 a year with no interest and further breakdown is provided and comments are made by Mr. Hasenjaeger. Mr. Fasanello states his position is to talk to the MWRA and join as an insurance policy if the Town ever needed to use it. Mr. Fasanello continues to comment the town should have something to rely on in the future. Mr. Mishra comments on the section about reaching out to the customer every three months and the recommendation from quarterly to monthly billing and he recommends that also. Mr. Mattson clarifies the DEP did not make the recommendations NEPWRA (Neponset River Watershed Association) did and further discussion is had.

Correspondence #2 Memorandum from Bill Abbott dated December 6, 2021 regarding Water Production- Current vs. Prior Years

Mr. Abbott comments this is the regular water production information.

Correspondence #3 Memorandum from Bill Abbott dated December 2, 2021 regarding FY22 Revenue Numbers

Mr. Abbott comments this is the revenue for every month and points out December was a good month.

Correspondence #4 Master Plan email dated 11/22/21 from Patrick Deschenes

Mr. Hasenjaeger comments the Commission should have a workshop to develop a consensus on policy direction. Mr. Hasenjaeger speaks about the approach by the consultants and recommends the Commissioners discuss a few points to give correspondence to the Master Plan of what their vision is for the future and what the risks and opportunities are. Mr. Hasenjaeger comments he has all the materials for a workshop for the Commissioners. Mr. Abbott asks if the Commissioners missed the deadline based on the emailed dated November 22, 2021. Further discussion is had and they still have time to answer. Mr. Fasanello comments he was interviewed extensively. The Commissioners are polled of who was interviewed and Mr. Fasanello was the only one.

Correspondence #5 Correspondence dated 12/23/21 from Aquarion Water Company regarding temporary interconnection between Walpole and Dover Water Systems

Mr. Spillane makes a comment he is not interested in this request. Mr. Fasanello speaks about the other options this company could have with surrounding towns. Mr. Fasanello continues the other towns are closer and feels we do not have the resources. Further discussion is had and Mr. Abbott suggests they answer the Commission is not interested and further discussion is had.

Motion made by Mr. Spillane *Seconded* by Mr. Abbott that the Board thanks Aquarion for their interest and are not interested.

Vote 4-0-1

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, William Abbott-Aye, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, Pradeep Mishra-Abstain, Patrick Fasanello-Aye

Correspondence #6 Correspondence received 1/3/22 from Piscitello, 11 Eldor Drive

Mr. Abbott comments he visited the resident regarding the correspondence sent into the Commissioners and this has no connection to the Sewer and Water Commissioners. The resident went to the Town Website to look for information and they found a check number that they wrote for their water bill. Mr. Abbott suggested they speak to IT and Mr. Mattson commented that the Town Departments are investigating this situation.

Discussion Item #1 Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mr. Abbott commented there will be four town meeting articles similar to the ones in the past (2 for Water and 2 for Sewer). Mr. Abbott continued one of them will be the Annual Budget Article and the other will be in case they run short to transfer funds from retained earnings. *Motion made* by Mr. Abbott to approve the four Town Meeting Articles *Seconded* by Mr. Spillane

Vote- 4-0-1

Roll Call John Spillane-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-Aye, William Abbott-Aye, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, Pradeep Mishra-Abstain

Discussion Item #2 Final Water Management Permit-

Already discussed on previous agenda item

Discussion Item #3 Special Permit Decision Case No. 21-05 Dated 11/30/21 Regarding 272-274 South Street

Read and Noted

Discussion Item #4 Special Permit Decision Case No. 21-06 Dated 11/30/21 Regarding 272-274

South Street

Read and Noted

Discussion Item #5 Jarvis Farm Parking Lot

Mr. Gustafson comments he does not have any updated information from the State and Mr. Fasanello asks if he can reach out for an update.

Discussion Item #6 Meter to Cash Report

Mr. Mishra comments on the delay time from the billing date to the check clearing date and feels the Board should look at different vendors to help solve the problem. Billing discussion is had regarding the current status. Mr. Fasanello asks Mr. Mattson the status of the case involving the most recent lawsuit. Mr. Mattson provides an update and further discussion is had. Mr. Abbott suggested the way to move forward is to continue this discussion in Executive Session.

Mr. Hasenjaeger asks when the next meeting is and requests this meeting meet in person and not via Zoom. Mr. Spillane does not believe that can happen and further discussion is had. ***Motion made*** by Mr. Hasenjaeger that the next meeting be held in person ***Seconded*** by Mr. Fasanello. Mr. Abbott discusses the issues at this time holding a public meeting.

Vote 2-2-1

Roll Call William Abbott-No, Pradeep Mishra-Abstain, Patrick Fasanello-Yes, John Hasenjaeger-Yes, John Spillane-No

Motion made by Mr. Abbott ***Seconded*** Mr. Fasanello to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

Vote 5-0-0

Roll Call William Abbott-Aye, Pradeep Mishra-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-Aye, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, John Spillane-Aye

Date Minutes Accepted: **March 1, 2022**