



*Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

*William Abbott, Chair
Glenn Maffei, Clerk
Patrick Fasanello, Member
John Hasenjaeger, Member
John Spillane, Member*

Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners

**April 12, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes**

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, April 12, 2021. The meeting is called to order remotely via Zoom by Board Chair William Abbott at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Abbott recites the Executive Order on Remote Participation.

Present Remotely at the Meeting: William Abbott, Patrick Fasanello, John Hasenjaeger, Glenn Maffei, John Spillane, Bernie Marshall, Water & Sewer Superintendent, Rick Mattson, DPW Director, James Johnson, Town Administrator, Mary Timilty

Abatements

Motion Made by Mr. Spillane to approve the abatements for Mr. Abbott to sign. ***Seconded*** by Mr. Maffei
Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, Glenn Maffei-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-Abstain, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, William Abbott-Aye
Vote 4-0-1

Superintendents Report

Mr. Marshall reported they had one new water main break since the last meeting at Main Street and Fisher Street due to the Eversource drilling. Mr. Marshall provided an update on the SCADA upgrade, the grant program and a new employee hire. Mr. Marshall reported the bid was awarded for sandblasting and painting of filters and the schedule timeframe. Mr. Marshall updated about the bid for the standby generators and the dates. Mr. Marshall provided an update on the roughly 600 feet of water main on Plain Street being installed, the VFD's to be replaced, the upcoming PFAS samples to be taken and the pump stations and pumps status. Mr. Marshall notified the Board he received a request to lengthen the operational hours of the septage facility and it would be up to the Board's discretion to bring it to the Zoning Board of Appeals. There was further discussion between Mr. Abbott and Mr. Marshall regarding the current operating hours and they are in place due to the Johnson Middle School being so close by and the hours could not be easily changed. Mr. Fasanello commented he was involved in the original agreement and feels this should be added to an agenda at a later date to discuss in length.

Comment Request #1-38 Peach Street and a Portion of 24 Peach Street Definitive 5-Lot Subdivision-Memo From Planning Board Dated 3/22/2021

Mr. Fasanello comments after reviewing the information he feels there needs to be easements on the two lots. Mr. Abbott and Mr. Fasanello have a brief discussion on the locations. Mr. Marshall provides an update he spoke with the Engineering Department and what their consideration is to put an easement across perspective lot three for future sewer and water from abutting lands and to be discussed with the

Sewer and Water Commission. Mr. Marshall also commented it should be noted that it's eight inch water main on Peach Street and one of his recommendations will be that it is an 8x8x8 "T" in the eight inch waterline feeding that all the way into the end of the cul de sac for future use.

Motion Made by Mr. Abbott, To make comments to the Planning Board that The Commissioners want a utility easement for both water and sewer at the end of lot 3 to service the lots beyond lot 3. The Commissioners are pending future comments from the Town Engineer and the Water and Sewer Superintendent. **Seconded** by Mr. Maffei

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-Aye, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, Glenn Maffei-Aye, William Abbott-Aye

Vote 5-0-0

Comment Request #2-Lincoln Estates-REFILE- Definitive 24-Lot Subdivision-Memo from Planning Board Dated 3/23/2021

Mr. Abbott comments the Board has already made their comments and it appears there is a permit for gravel removal operation plan as well as the phasing and constructions schedule. Mr. Marshall updated the Board about the hydraulic assessment quote and the Engineer has assured him the town will be reimbursed for that study.

Motion Made by Mr. Abbott that the Sewer and Water Commissioners send a note to the Planning Board that they have no additional comments on the Lincoln's Estate Subdivision related to the gravel removal operation. **Seconded** by Mr. Maffei

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-No, John Hasenjaeger-Abstain, Glenn Maffei-Aye, William Abbott-Aye

Vote 3-1-1

Correspondence #1-Memo From Bill Abbott Re: FY21 Revenue Numbers

Mr. Abbott commented this is the update he provides to the Board every month. Mr. Abbott commented we are doing well on the usage charges for the water and are still behind on the entrance fees and the Pennington Crossing entrance fees for the third building will coming in. Ms. Timilty updated Mr. Abbott the entrance fees have been received. Mr. Fasanello commented if the Board can increase the hours at the septage facility that will help with the revenue. Mr. Abbott updated the Board that 86% of the septage facility revenue comes from one hauler.

Policy Review #1-Reconsider Rate Increase and Budget

Mr. Maffei wanted to revisit the budget discussion from two weeks ago with some observations and ways the Board has approached the budget. Mr. Maffei continues by discussing the Board has been moving away from relying on retained earnings and the dependence on entrance fees, which are in place to improve our existing system. Mr. Maffei continues that we want to protect retained earnings due to upcoming capital expenses coming up at Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Maffei continues his discussion and proposes that when preparing future budgets to pay close attention to the previous fiscal years actual vs. budgeted usage revenues and entrance fees. Mr. Maffei continues to discuss ways to use best practices. Mr. Abbott comments how he collects all the detailed billing, production and revenue information so they can identify from year to year with all the data. Mr. Hasenjaeger comments he agrees with Mr. Maffei and suggests ways for Mr. Marshall to explain the source of revenues to the Capital Budget Committee.

Mr. Johnson comments they are watching what's happening with the county and the money received that may be going directly to cities and towns and they are also waiting on the guidelines on what it can be spent on once received.

Discussion Item #1-Board Secretary Position

Mr. Fasanello was looking for an update on where the Board Secretary position being filled is at. Mr. Johnson comments the town has been looking for multiple ways to improve efficiencies around town hall and provided some examples of ways the town has done so. Mr. Johnson continues that we are not looking to fill the position at this point and that Ms. Timilty has picked up additional hours to perform the additional duties and the management is happy with the current operation. There is further discussion by the Board on the position and the position title. Mr. Abbott comments if the work load picks up they can address hiring someone for the additional hours at that time.

Discussion Item #2-Jarvis Farm Parking Lot

Mr. Fasanello comments he was looking for an update on the status of the Jarvis Farm parking lot. Mr. Mattson comments they are working with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Engineering Department. Mr. Mattson provided an update on where Engineering placed stakes without impacting the Eversource Easement and right away as Eversource will not allow them to construct a parking lot on their easement. Mr. Mattson tells Mr. Fasanello that he will contact him once the DEP comes to visit the site which could be as soon as tomorrow. Mr. Fasanello comments he took an oath to protect the water and needs to know what is going on. There is further discussion regarding the Eversource easement area. Mr. Spillane comments he feels Jarvis Farm has turned into something completely other than why they bought the place to protect the water. Mr. Fasanello asks if Eversource pays taxes for the infrastructure and Mr. Johnson answers that they do pay taxes and they are in the top five tax payers in the town. Mr. Fasanello asks if Eversource owns the land or only have an easement. Mr. Abbott and Mr. Johnson answered they believe it is just an easement and Mr. Johnson will review the file.

Discussion Item #3-New Water and Sewer Bill Format

Mr. Abbott updates the Board the Town has hired a new printer and it gives the Department and Commissioners the chance to change the format of the Water and Sewer Bill. Mr. Fasanello and Mr. Abbott provide suggestions of different items and wording to add to the new format and directing the customers to the website for rates and more information. Mr. Maffei and Mr. Abbott have a discussion on what information is in the bill file to print on bills. Mr. Maffei comments his preference is the printers sample and he likes the idea of printing the consumption history also. Ms. Timilty comments she also prefers the printer's sample. Mr. Abbott feels that what is chosen should not cause questions from customers for the Water Department and the Collector's Office. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Hasenjaeger provided their comments on what they would like to appear on the bill.

Motion Made by Mr. Spillane to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. and **Seconded** by Mr. Maffei

Roll Call Vote John Spillane-Aye, Glenn Maffei-Aye, Patrick Fasanello-Aye, John Hasenjaeger-Aye, William Abbott-Aye

Vote 5-0-0

Date Meeting Minutes Accepted May 10, 2021