

July 22, 2019

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Facility, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: William Abbott, Glenn Maffei, John Spillane and John Hasenjaeger. Also Bernie Marshall, Supt. of Sewer and Water and Rick Mattson, DPW Director.

Absent: Patrick Fasanello

There are no abatements submitted tonight.

Minutes are discussed. Mr. Maffei points out one of his statements in the subject open and close of town meeting is missing words as it should include the words withdrawal permit. Mr. Abbott says since the minutes are incomplete they should be held until the next meeting. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to make the change to Mr. Maffei's statement and to hold these minutes until the next meeting. Second by John Hasenjaeger. Vote 4-0-0.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Spillane asks Mr. Marshall if he has heard from Foxboro at all and the answer is no and he doesn't expect to but will keep the board informed if he does. There were no water main breaks and there were 2 service leaks. Regarding Jarvis Farm and Hirshman Pond, in working with the Recreation Department they had higher than allowed bacteria count in the swimming area and it was closed immediately. More samples were taken today and the board was pulled to allow newer water and the board will be replaced today. There is some discussion on potential causes for this. Mr. Marshall says he has no capital items for the fall town meeting. He tells of the enhanced coagulation they have been doing at the Willis Treatment Plant and he just got the results last night and has not had time to review them. Aqua Genics will provide a draft report which will be reviewed by him and his staff and then a final report will be provided to the Board. The dry residuals have been removed from the first lagoon and now in the process of drying out another lagoon. Mr. Hasenjaeger asks how many lagoons we have and Mr. Marshall explains that there are 2 that are used and another used just for holding. Mr. Hasenjaeger asks if the company that takes the residuals is licensed and the answer is yes. Mr. Marshall also tells they are looking at one of their capital items where the waste is taken and retooling it. They are planning to visit Wellesley as they replaced their unit. The Baker St. preconstruction meeting should take place in about 3 weeks. Mr. Abbott asks about water levels and Mr. Marshall says they are good and people are actually adhering to the Water Management Policy.

#### **BOARD OF APPEALS 145 PRODUCTION RD SPECIAL PERMIT MOTOR CYCLE REPAIR**

**Motion Made** by William Abbott to send a memo to the Board of Appeals stating that this Board has no comments with regard to this subject. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0.

#### **BOARD OF APPEALS 149 PRODUCTION RD SPECIAL PERMIT DOGGIE DAY CARE**

**Motion Made** by William Abbott to send a memo to the Board of Appeals stating that this Board has no comments with regard to this subject. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0.

#### **JARVIS FARM PERMIT APPLICATION**

**Motion Made** by John Spillane to approve the application for the use of Jarvis Farm by the Annual Obstacle Challenge. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

#### **SECOND METER ALLOWANCE – SURVEY RESULTS**

Mr. Abbott explains that this is informational and is just showing what other towns are doing with regard to second meters.

## **NORTH STREET SEWER ACCEPTANCE**

There is discussion about where on North St. this is and how long it is. Mr. Spillane asks if it has been checked and Mr. Marshall says yes, by our Engineering Dept. Mr. Hasenjaeger asks about the I/I and Mr. Mattson says it was paid by the subdivision developer. He then asks if the person on North St. hooks up will he be required to pay I/I and Mr. Mattson replies according to this Board's regulations yes they would. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to accept this portion of sewer in North Street as requested by our Town Engineer. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

## **PLANNING BOARD MUSTO, WEST ST. REVISED PLANS**

Mr. Marshall points out that the requests of this Board were not included in the revised plans. **Motion Made** by William Abbott that the same requests of this Board is re-sent to the Planning Board. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

Fall town meeting articles have already been discussed however Mr. Mattson a previous article voted was written incorrectly and therefore will be back on the warrant with the correct wording for cleanup. There is discussion. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to put an article on the Fall Town Meeting dealing with residual to address the Administrative Consent Order related to the Willis Treatment Plant. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0. Mr. Mattson expresses concern over the fact that we are not completely sure how we address this yet. There is discussion on putting a placeholder on the FATM. Mr. Hasenjaeger asks who issue the Order and he is told it was the EPA. Mr. Marshall says he will make sure the secretary takes care of this.

Mr. Spillane asks Mr. Mattson to speak on the swimming at Jarvis Farm and how it went. Mr. Mattson says he does not believe it was as well attended as hoped. He believes there were 45 to 50 people for 2 days.

Mr. Abbott announces that the suit by Mr. Mishra was dismissed with no right of appeal by either party.

The 7:15 appointment with Raftelis Finance Consultants for the water rate study is cancelled due to the inability to the consultants being able to make the meeting.

## **7:45 APPT. MARK ABRAHAMS, THE ABRAHAMS GROUP, WATER RATE STUDY**

Mark Abrahams and his son Matt are present for the group. Mr. Abrahams gives a background of the Town where there are about 8200 accounts, mostly residential and in 2017 there was a surplus, ran a shortfall in 2018 and probably in 2019 which is why he is here tonight. He says the Board is looking for a comprehensive rate study and his company has done many. He proposes a look back of 3 years and going forward for 5 years which would give a historical look and a projected look. He continues that the Board's scope also asks for them to look at their billing and collection procedures and make recommendations. They are ultimately being asked to look at recommendations for rates and a potential rate structure. The revenue would cover operating, capital, debt, indirect and O&M and salary costs, which would be funded through rates. They are proposing 3 phases; Phase 1 would be data gathering, Phase 2 would be analyzing and Phase 3 is the reporting. He tells what is involved in each phase. Mr. Abrahams then gives a background of who they are and what they do and their experience. Mr. Maffei asks if there is technology out there to help with the billing and collections that would prevent the Town from hiring more people and Mr. Abrahams says yes. His son Matt tells of the experience they have had with the Munis system. Mr. Maffei would like to emphasize the he would like attention to be given to cleaning up the manual requirements if our system has the ability to eliminate some of it and make things more efficient. Mr. Maffei then talks about the tier system that is in place and tells that he would like to be able to play around with it and change the numbers. He would like the ability to have real time data. Mr. Abrahams explains that they replicate our data into excel and tells how this will give the ability to change and identify things. Mr. Spillane asks if they have any idea how long the entire process will take and the answer is no more than 3 months. Mr. Hasenjaeger speaks on growth and future water demands. Mr. Abbott asks what towns they have done in the last 5 years. Mr. Abrahams tells they have done both water and sewer for Hopkington, Providencetown, Winchester, Sommerville, Norton, Methuen, Medway and Millis. Mr. Abbott says it sounds like you come back on an annual basis. Mr. Abrahams says yes but some of the towns

don't call them back in. Mr. Abbott then asks about the responsibility of the town to provide some extensive data. Matt says there is a report they are aware of which is PDF on Munis and convert it to Excel. There is discussion on this. Mr. Abbott then talks about trying to resolve the issue of very large condo buildings and smaller condo buildings and Mr. Abrahams gives different optional scenarios. Mr. Abbott would like to know what changes we should make with regard to time constraints and to make targeted revenue.

Mr. Spillane had to leave the meeting at this time.

Mr. Hasenjaeger talks about frequency of billing and Mr. Abrahams tells that the Munis system has the capability of monthly billing. Mr. Abbott asks if they could shrink the 3 months to completion time and Mr. Abrahams says yes if they can get the billing data clean. There is discussion on the award of the RFP and the process. Mr. Marshall recommends that in the interest of time the Board might want to take a vote tonight. Mr. Hasenjaeger says there should be a threshold on what the Board would like to spend he would like to know some parameters of the cost before he would agree to awarding. There is further discussion and Mr. Hasenjaeger is satisfied. Mr. Abbott reviews the criteria the Board had asked for in the RFP. The Board is in agreement that the Group understands our goal with clear answers. The rating process is explained and each member is asked to fill it out. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to send a memo to the Town Administrator recommending that the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners has selected The Abrahams Group for the Water Rate Study and ask him to negotiate a price with them. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 3-0-0.

Mr. Marshall asks for a motion to inform Raftelis that we have chosen someone for our rate study. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to notify Raftelis that we have made a decision for our rate study and offer if they would like to come in to our next meeting to tell us what they do as we may need something like this in the future. Second by Glenn Maffei.

Mr. Hasenjaeger asks Mr. Marshall to organize a meeting with our legislators to discuss the Town of Walpole's Water Management Permit. The Water Management Permit and water demands are discussed.

**Motion Made** by John Hasenjaeger to adjourn. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

*Accepted September 23, 2019*