

January 27, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, January 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: John Spillane, Patrick Fasanello, William Abbott and Glenn Maffei. Also Bernie Marshall, Supt. of Sewer and Water; Scott Gustafson, Asst. Supt. of Sewer and Water; Jim Johnson, Town Administrator; and Gregg Corbo, Town Counsel.

Absent: John Hasenjaeger

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

Minutes of January 13, 2020 are discussed and there are some amendments made. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to accept the minutes of January 13, 2020 with amendments. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Marshall reports that there was a phone conference call with the Abraham Group. They were instructed to look at and recommend whether to use a service charge, ideas for changes to charges for multi units, reach out to the Assessor to find out how many multi units would be affected, senior discount/low income rate recommendation, commercial rate, if using 88 mgd is a good number to determine the rate, look at the tier structure and recommend whether it should be tweaked or abolished. He does not know how long it will take to get this. Mr. Abbott asks if all wells have been cleaned and the answer is no. Mr. Gustafson says the town will pick the next well to be done. Mr. Marshall says there have been no water main breaks since they last met. Wright Pierce is going to bid for the retrofit of the Delaney Plant sludge handling. The Robbins Road Septage Facility Roof has been completed and was well done. He tells of the transfer switch at the Washington Booster was not the correct one and they are waiting for the correct one. Also when the generator was fired up there was a problem with the gas line regulator and the gas company needs to fix this. Willis and Delaney residuals were sampled and if the results are negative they will do the same as last time. Jarvis Farm sign was installed stating the gate will be locked at 3:15 every day. He then tells of the interviews for laborers and treatment operator. Mr. Fasanello asks about a problem on Baker Street. Mr. Marshall tells of a trench problem that P.J. Hayes fixed.

ANTONIO LISI, 225 SPRING STREET, CHARGES INCURRED

Mr. and Mrs. Lisi are both present for this discussion. Mrs. Lisi says they bought this house in 2018 with the contingency that they would be able to hook up to town water. The previous owner had the Town come out to mark where the water shut off would be from the street. Mrs. Lisi was shown the location which was the end of the driveway. In July they hired an excavator licensed by the Town and the Town came out to mark the line and they were told that the shut off was across the street. They started work in October and the excavator dug across the street and the line was not there. The Town came out again and they were told to go over 35 feet and it wasn't there. The Town did not know where the line was. The excavator finally dug at the driveway where they were originally told and found it about 2 feet over and the meter pit was put there. They ended up paying an additional \$6000 because they had to close the road and get a police detail and get a different machine to dig through the ledge. They are here tonight seeking some relief for the additional costs they incurred. Mr. Marshall apologizes to the Lisi family and says the water main was located improperly. The curb stop that was across the street belonged to their neighbor and they measured from there and perceived that the water main went up Spring Street. The day the contractor was out there he and the DPW Director were there and they tried to use the divining rod as well. Even with the records they had at town hall they could not locate the water main. The records only went up to the

neighbor's house. Ms. Lisi adds that her house was on a well at the time. Mr. Marshall continues that after the contractor was there his men went out and extended about five feet into the sidewalk and found the water main and at that point we extended the service to the property and took care of the road repair and paid for a police detail. He says they tried to make amends on this by providing the service into the property. Ms. Lisi says the previous owner showed a square where she said the town came out and pinged. Mr. Marshall says there would have been nothing to ping. There is discussion and pictures are shown of the site. Mr. Fasanello asks how much they are asking for and Ms. Lisi says they ended up paying \$11,188.34 but \$6,200 of that was because of the unnecessary related work. The contractor originally quoted her a price of 5 to 6 thousand dollars. Mr. Abbott asks if work was taken off the itemized list by the contractor because the Town did this work instead and the answer is yes. Mr. Maffei feels the circumstances are regretful and we did accept an entrance fee and Mr. Abbott agrees and says he is inclined to waive the entrance fee. **Motion Made** by Glenn Maffei to waive the water entrance fee for this address and credit their water account for this amount. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 4-0-0. Ms. Lisi says that the excess costs were \$6200 so the Board is meeting them half way. Mr. Maffei explains that we typically don't waive more than we have collected. Mr. Abbott asks if there is interest of the Board of adding to the vote just taken. Mr. Maffei says he is comfortable with his motion. Mr. Abbott says there does not appear to be any interest. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to split the \$4985 which was the cost of the extra work. There is discussion on how this amount came about. There is no second to the motion. It is explained that the \$3500 will be credited to their water bill and they will not be charged until this amount of water is used.

7:45 MAURA & STEVE GRIFFIN, 29 ALBANY RD. BILL DISPUTE

Mr. and Ms. Griffin say they spoke to someone at the Water Department who contacted her husband to say that they had used a lot of water. Ms. Griffin says they don't get the local paper and don't go on the computer. They have lived there for 25 years and decided to put in a new lawn, they spent a lot of money on it and had to water it. They never thought it would cost them this much money. Mr. Abbott asks if they followed the Water Management Policy as their days would be Mondays and Thursdays. Mr. Griffin says he thought it was every other day. He says his bill was over \$2000 and the previous bill was \$230. Mr. Marshall says you must know that when you irrigate you have to pay for the water. Mr. Griffin says his sewer charge was more than half the bill and this water did not go into the sewer. Mr. Spillane suggests a sewer abatement and Mr. Abbott says this is something that was done in the past for things like a pipe bursting and flooding the basement. Mr. Griffin says this is what he is looking for and asks for help for this charge. It is suggested that a precedence would be set by doing this and everyone who does outside watering would be looking for the same consideration. This policy is for leaks not for outside watering. There is discussion on how this should be billed or if the bill should be changed at all. It is decided that the staff will calculate the water using the irrigation rate for excess usage and the indoor sewer usage will be charged at 100%. This will be put back on the next agenda with the current charges also and the Board will make a decision at that time as to which bill will be in force.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS SPECIAL PERMIT, 1363-1391 MAIN ST.

All information was reviewed and discussed. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to send a letter to the Board of Appeals stating that the applicant has not supplied enough information for the Sewer & Water Commission to provide comment at this time. This Commission would like the applicant to appear before them to explain their plans. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 4-0-0.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION, NOTICE OF INTENT – 300 STONE STREET

Information is reviewed and discussed. This Commission has no comments on this subject.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, COMPREHENSIVE PERMIT AND PUBLIC HEARING CEDAR CROSSING AND CEDAR EDGE -51-53-55 SUMMER STREET

Mr. Fasanello asks how many units and Mr. Marshall responds 300 plus. Mr. Abbott says at this point we are just making comments and there are water and sewer comments in the Town Engineer's document. Mr. Marshall says they have already made comment that there needs to be peer review. He then proceeds to read the water and sewer comments on the Town Engineer's provided document. Mr. Abbott says he would like to add a number 11 to the document to minimize the use of irrigation in this area. Mr. Fasanello says this is revenue. Mr. Marshall says he did go over this with the Town Engineer and these plans are very preliminary. The infrastructure is not quite what they would like to see, some of the buildings don't even have domestic water and sprinklers. Mr. Abbott says this is a 40B and once they submit things the clock starts ticking and the Town has to come back with comments. He says at this point all things could change. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to add an eleventh item to the Town Engineer's document related to us wanting them to minimize the amount of irrigation systems on their development. Second by Glenn Maffei. Mr. Maffei would like to ask Mr. Fasanello what he meant by his statement be careful what you wish for and Mr. Fasanello responds the revenue stream. There is discussion on revenue versus irrigation. Vote 2-1-1, Spillane against, Fasanello abstains.

JARVIS FARM PERMIT APPLICATION MICK MORGAN'S OVERFLOW PARKING

Mr. Abbott says this is the 6th year that the Town has allowed this. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to approve the application from Mick Morgan's to allow overflow parking for the HESSCO 5k road race. Second by Glenn Maffei. Mr. Fasanello speaks of his concern of harming the aquifer. Vote 3-1-0 Fasanello against.

REQUEST FOR ABATEMENT 5 ELDOR DRIVE

Information is reviewed and discussed. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to credit the sewer on this account in the amount of \$234.32. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION ON CHARGES FOR LEAK – 11 HOOVER ROAD

Discussion is held regarding the email in which the homeowner is requesting consideration for a water/sewer bill where there was a leaky toilet due to a malfunctioning flapper. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to remain consistent with their policy and deny any adjustment to this bill as the water passed through the meter and entered the sanitary sewer system. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

OPTIMA HYDRANT LOCATION 990 BOSTON PROVIDENCE HIGHWAY

Mr. Abbott says Mr. Hasenjaeger is not here and he is the one that asked about this. He says we previously met with the engineer for this project and we had asked to have it moved a couple of feet to have them in Walpole and the engineer felt this was not a problem. Mr. Marshall says he has not seen any updated plans that the hydrant has been moved however he will make sure that it is taken care of and that he sees the updated plans. It is asked that a letter be sent to the Zoning Board and the Planning Board stating that this Board would like the two hydrants proposed for his project that are currently located on the plan to be in Sharon should be relocated on the plan to be in Walpole. Mr. Maffei feels the Fire Chief should be consulted for this and Mr. Abbott says Mr. Hasenjaeger says he already spoke to the Fire Chief and he said the Fire Chief also wants them in Walpole. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to send a letter to the Zoning and Planning Board stating that provided that the Fire Chief is in agreement this Board would like the 2 proposed hydrants that are located on the plan to be in Sharon moved to Walpole property. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0.

Motion Made by John Spillane to adjourn. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Accepted February 18, 2020