

**January 16, 2018**

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

Present: Tom Brown, John Hasenjaeger, John Spillane, and William Abbott. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water and James Johnson, Town Administrator.

Absent: Patrick Fasanello

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

**Motion Made** by John Spillane to accept the minutes of November 27, 2017 as amended. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

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

Mr. Mattson reports that there have been 6 broken water mains of various sizes and locations. They were easy to repair as they were due to settlement of the earth and were shear cracks. He expects more breaks. His staff worked in less than desirable conditions and did a great job; hats off to them. The water main projects have been shut down for the remainder of the season, all but Shufelt Rd., which they will do in the spring. The loop for Harding Rd. and Barstow Rd. is also being delayed due to the frost. They have replaced 2 hydrants due to traffic accidents. The pilot for 1,4 Dioxane is in the second phase. They are at 2 different locations; one is the treated water from Wash. 6 and now the untreated to determine a final remediation site. All of the treated water came back as non-detects. Mr. Mattson then reports that they received 2 bids for the sewer rehabilitation which will be done in April. He will put out the RFP's for the design of the next phase of water mains if it fits in the existing budget so that it can be bid in March.

### **JARVIS FARM USE REQUEST 6-2-18 TO 6-3-18**

It is explained that this request was submitted previously. There is discussion on the coordination of the applications and Mr. Brown says he would like to see a policy in place as to when the applications would be accepted to reserve dates in an effort to avoid a monopoly of the same dates each year. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to approve the application for Chuck Wagon 2018 cub scouts for these dates only. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

### **DIAMOND BUILDERS I/I REQUEST**

Mr. Mattson explains that Diamond Builders of Eastover Rd. is looking to satisfy their Inflow and Infiltration with the Town. This is a unique situation being that the buildings are ready to be occupied and the I/I has not been satisfied. They have worked closely with Weston and Sampson and Mr. Mattson is recommending that the Board grant them occupancy once there is a contract with a pipeline company and the company is paid. Mr. Brown asks if there is a guarantee from Diamond Builders and Mr. Mattson responds that the contract with the pipeline company would be the guarantee. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to accept the agreement with Diamond Builders to enter into a contract with a pipeline company at which time occupancy will be allowed. Second by Tom Brown. Vote 2-2-0, Hasenjager and Spillane abstain. There is no vote. The Board would like to see the contract at the next meeting and will address it then.

### **3 MARSTON RD. REVIST OF REQUEST AFTER CHECKING METER**

Mr. Mattson reminds that this was previously before the Board where the resident is asking that the Board adjust the water bill for this address. Although she says he had a leak, she was also questioning the accuracy of the meter. The Board asked that the meter be checked before they make a decision. The meter

was checked and appears to be working fine and is accurate. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to deny a request for an adjustment to the bill for 3 Marston Rd. based on our policy that all water passing through the meter must be paid for. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

#### **REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF ACCOUNT – 20 MILLBROOK AVE.**

Mr. Mattson explains that the outside reader was not transmitting readings from the meter and therefore the account was estimated until we were able to get into the home to remedy the situation. Upon access to the meter it was determined that the outside reader had stopped transmitting and an additional 22,000 cubic feet had passed through the meter that was not billed for. Mr. Mattson is recommending that the Board authorize the Water Department to pro rate the account by using the lower rates that were in effect at the time during which the issue occurred. This has been calculated by his staff and the abatement would be \$229.29. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to authorize the abatement in the amount of \$229.29 as recommended. Second by John Spillane. Vote 3-0-1, Hasenjaeger abstained.

#### **PLANNING BD. COMMENT REQUEST 26 BAKER ST REVISED PLAN #4**

Mr. Mattson says there are no revisions made to this plan so the Board considers it read and noted.

#### **PLANNING BD, CONCOM & ZBA COMMENT REQUEST 255 UNION ST.**

Mr. Mattson says the Board needs to know what they intend to do with regard to utilities. Mr. Brown asks if the main will be increased and Mr. Mattson responds that we should tell them. There is discussion on how many buildings and accounts there would be and how many units. A letter will be sent to the various boards stating that this Board is inviting the proponent into the next meeting to get an overview of the project and explain their plans for the utilities. Comments will be made after this meeting.

#### **7:30 NORWOOD ENGINEERING RE: SENIOR AEROSPACE EXPANSION**

Mr. Mattson says this appointment was cancelled by Norwood Engineering as they had a conflict with their schedule. There is discussion on the former Metal Bellows/ Parker Hannifin contamination and this is now Senior Aerospace which will have the same obligation. Mr. Brown asks if this the same manufacturing and Mr. Mattson says yes. There is a letter from the Licensed Site Professional who has concerns of the mound of groundwater and it potentially deflecting to our water supply. Mr. Abbott asks if we should go before the Town of Sharon and Mr. Mattson says it couldn't hurt. Mr. Brown says we should send Town Counsel on our behalf. Mr. Mattson adds that the LSP is from GeoInsight and works for Parker Hannifin however he is very honest. Mr. Hasenjaeger expresses concern over contaminating the water supply. Mr. Abbott asks for the meeting dates in Sharon as he is willing to go and express the Board's concerns. Mr. Mattson will get the information for him and this appointment will be rescheduled.

#### **PINE ACRES, 388 NORTH ST. SUBDIVISION DECISION**

This is read and noted.

#### **2018 MEETING SCHEDULE**

This is read and noted. Mr. Mattson says the Finance Director has asked if the rate hearing can be held prior to town meeting which is typically held in June. There is discussion and there is no desire to change things. Mr. Johnson says he is preparing his budget message and would like to meet with the Commission to go over projections as he is looking for the Boards blessing. The Commission is amenable to this. There is also discussion on the water and sewer rates. There is \$2,067,513 in retained earnings some of which will be used on capital. Mr. Abbott talks about using some of this to stabilize the sewer rate. Mr. Brown would like to know how much would be needed to take the increase down 1%. Mr. Mattson does some calculating and he believes an additional \$52,000 will bring it down 1%. There is some discussion and Mr. Mattson says 78% of our water usage is residential and 40% is irrigation.

## **SETTING WATER RATES INFORMATION**

Mr. Mattson says this is purely informational to see how others set their rates.

## **WATER DEPT. EXPENSE VS. REVENUE – JARVIS FARM**

Mr. Mattson provides this as it was requested at the last meeting. He says the numbers changed since he wrote this and there is a net difference of \$3,792.27. Mr. Abbott says if we look at the first 2 years the majority of the expenses are one-time cost and the third year is more typical. Mr. Brown asks why we are paying to treat the ponds and Mr. Mattson says we have been treating pond since we acquired the land.

Budgets are briefly discussed. Mr. Johnson speaks on the MWRA connection and says it is a straight process and since the warrant for the SATM closes on January 23, he suggests putting this on the warrant to get town meeting's blessing. The Board agrees with this.

The cast iron pipe replacement article will be from borrowing.

Mr. Brown asks how old the jet vac is and Mr. Mattson says it is in a real state of disrepair. The cost to fix it rivaled the cost of a new vac. Mr. Brown asks if the old vac is worth anything and Mr. Mattson answers yes, the chassis is in very good shape. Mr. Brown then asks how often this truck is used and Mr. Mattson says a minimum of every 2 weeks plus emergencies. It is used to clean and maintain sewer lines as well as clean the basins at the plants, a couple of filters and trenchless excavation, clean storm drains and catch basins. Mr. Brown asks if storm drains are our responsibility and Mr. Mattson responds no, but we assist.

Mr. Abbott asks about the portable generator and Mr. Mattson explains that is trailer mounted to be used at Chandler Ave., etc. Right now the contingency is a septic truck to pump and if we had a generator it could just be plugged in.

## **DISCOVERY RESPONSE**

Mr. Mattson explains that this is from Town Counsel and is just information and is self-explanatory. We now will wait for a rebuttal.

The articles for the Spring Annual Town Meeting by this Board are discussed and are as follows:

1. The O&M Budgets for both water and sewer.
2. The water pipeline improvements will come from borrowing.
3. Seeking Town Meeting authorization to join the MWRA
4. Authorization to use additional retained earnings to reduce the sewer rate with the value to be determined at a later date and with the understanding that it will be removed if not needed.

**Motion Made** by William Abbott that the Sewer & Water Commission sponsors the above articles at the Spring Annual Town Meeting. Second by John Hasenjaeger. Vote 4-0-0.

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

*Accepted February 26, 2018*