

July 27, 2020

The meeting is called to order remotely via Zoom by Chairman Abbott at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Abbott recites the Executive Order on Remote Participation. He then tells all that will be participating in the meeting: John Hasenjaeger, William Abbott, Patrick Fasanello, Glenn Maffei, John Spillane, Bernie Marshall, Scott Gustafson, Mary Frisbee, and Rick Mattson.

### **REORGANIZATION**

Mr. Abbott explains that on June 25<sup>th</sup> there was an election and he and Mr. Hasenjaeger were re-elected. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to postpone reorganizing until there is an in person meeting. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote Fasanello – Aye, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 5-0-0. The next meeting is August 10<sup>th</sup> and if in person is allowed this will be on this agenda.

### **ABATEMENTS**

**Motion Made** by William Abbott to authorize the Superintendent to sign the abatements since this is a Zoom meeting. Second by Glenn Maffei. Mr. Spillane believes the Commission should be signing them. Mr. Hasenjaeger feels this is a sloppy way of doing things. Vote Fasanello – No, Spillane – No, Hasenjaeger – No, Maffei – No, Abbott – No. There is no vote. The abatements will be held until the next in person meeting.

Minor corrections are made to the May 18, 2020 Zoom meeting. **Motion Made** by John Hasenjaeger to accept the minutes of May 18, 2020 with the minor corrections being made. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote Fasanello – Aye, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 5-0-0.

### **SUPERINTENDEN'S STATUS REPORT**

Mr. Marshall reports that they have been working with Wright Pierce for the Water Management Act and they have been working on our behalf with the DEP. They are compiling our mitigation strategy and they are also including the I/I work that has been done over the years by the Town. He is hoping to meet with them in mid-August. They have also been working on the Willis Plant lagoon and have cleaned the residuals out of the second lagoon and will be retrofitting that with the filter fabric that will get them into compliance with the suspended solids that they have been dealt with by the EPA. They had one main break that was on private property at Rocky's plaza. There were 3 small service leaks. Woodard and Curran was awarded the bid for the SCADA upgrade. They are also working with Wright Pierce on final design and on the electric and small water pipes for the removal of the residuals at the Delaney plant. This is about 85% engineered. The crew is working on drain lines as there is an issue on Autumn Lane and they are using the Vac truck here. Additionally they are doing locations of the gate valves and curb boxes for the State as Route 1A is being redone. The sewer pump stations for Chandler Ave. and Leonard Rd. upgrades are going to the Central Register on July 29<sup>th</sup>. Our engineer Ali Parand is looking at a larger pump and motor at the High Street Booster Station. Mr. Abbott asks if it is known what is going into the new building on Route 1 next to Metal Bellows and labeled Sharon Park South and Mr. Marshall responds that he does not know but will reach out to Sharon to find out.

### **WALPOLE CRICKET CLUB JARVIS FARM APPLICATION**

Mr. Fasanello would like to know if any progress has been made to making parking safe in our aquifer and Mr. Marshall says there has not been any movement on this. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to approve the application of the Walpole Cricket Club for the use of Jarvis Farm. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote Fasanello – No, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 4-1-0, Fasanello against. There is discussion regarding the fact that this is a zoom meeting and the Commissioners are unable to sign the application as required. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to authorize Chairman Abbott to sign the application on behalf of the other Commissioners. Second by

John Hasenjaeger. Vote Fasanello – Aye, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 5-0-0.

### **TOWN COUNSEL’S OPINION RE: SUPPLYING WATER TO DOVER (LEGISLATION)**

Mr. Abbott gives the background of the requirement to supply certain parcels in Dover per the Legislation from 1982. Mr. Mattson says we do not have to supply water to any new buildings on these parcels, only the ones that were standing in 1982. The Legislation will remain in effect unless there is a request for an amendment filed. Mr. Maffei says that is the way he read this also. Mr. Mattson does not believe we are obligated to supply water to these new buildings however we could if we want to if the Dover Board of Selectmen allowed it. Mr. Hasenjaeger agrees with Mr. Mattson’s interpretation of Town Counsel’s opinion. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to deny the request from the request of Mr. Tiberi for Walpole Water to a multi-unit development in the Town of Dover. Second by Glenn Maffei. There is discussion. Mr. Abbott says Town Meeting has expressed that they do not want water supplied to towns outside of Walpole. Vote Fasanello – Aye, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 5-0-0.

### **FY 20 REVENUE SHORTFALL – PUMPING LESS WATER?**

Mr. Abbott explains his worksheet and would like to make note of May and June numbers of this year. Instead of being down by 10% like the previous 16 months, we actually appear to be a little above the historical 3 years. He does not know why other than perhaps because of the virus many people are working from home or not working. He would not say this would establish a trend but would be interested to see the numbers for July which we should have for our next meeting. This is considered to be read and noted.

### **FY20 REVENUE UPDATE**

Mr. Abbott says as all are aware we did not meet our targeted revenue. He assumes that the Town Accountant has closed out the books however when he wrote this she had almost completed it. There was a deficit of \$362,000 for water and a sewer deficit of \$596,000 both of which will be made up by retained earnings. He reminds that by adding \$400,000 to the rate and the \$362,000, we are shrinking the water retained earnings by \$762,000. None of the retained earnings were taken to adjust the sewer rate but are taking \$596,000 from the \$2.1 million to apply to the deficit. There is concern of continuing to use the retained earnings. He feels it should be carefully monitored and should it continue to a downswing there may need to be a rate hearing mid-year. Mr. Hasenjaeger says the positive thing is that we have the Pulte, Corcoran, Lorusso and Renmar projects all coming on line which is 800 new customers. Mr. Abbott responds that this will help with the revenue however he is not sure how quickly these places will fill up. Mr. Abbott then asks when the entrance fee is paid and Mr. Mattson responds that they pay when they apply for their building permit. Mr. Hasenjaeger says he has asked before that sister communities be contacted to see if they are having a similar problem or if it unique to Walpole. Mr. Hasenjaeger then speaks of the lead and copper in the water. There is some discussion and Mr. Mattson explains that they follow the Federal Drinking Water Regulations and are well within compliance. He tells where the lead comes from which is the plumbing fittings and that is not pumped out of the ground.

### **BILL ADJUSTMENT REQUEST – 54 ANDERSON WAY**

This homeowner was fined in June of 2019 in the amount of \$5000 as it was found that for the previous 5 years he had been using his irrigation system without a meter. He is now seeking to have this adjusted. Mr. Abbott does not see any reason to reconsider this as it was an improper adjustment, he feels he should go after the one that improperly installed this. Mr. Marshall agrees with Mr. Abbott. Mr. Maffei feels he is asking to appear before the Board for his request and asks that any action to put this on the next agenda so he can come to the meeting. This will be done.

## **2020 FALL ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT**

Mr. Abbott explains that the Warrant closes August 18<sup>th</sup> we have today or our next meeting to figure what articles we would like. He is aware that Mr. Marshall would like the article for his Asset Management Program. Mr. Marshall says he would like to go forward with this. Mr. Abbott says this would be about \$70,000. Mr. Maffei asks if the grant is still available and Mr. Marshall says he believes it still is but will double check on the dates before our next meeting. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to support the article for the Asset Management Program funding for the Fall Annual Town Meeting. Second by Glenn Maffei. Vote Fasanello – Aye, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 5-0-0. Next Mr. Abbott talks about the problem with one of the filters at the Delaney Plant and there was concern that all of the filters are the same age. Mr. Marshall says he has a couple of things to speak about for the 2021 Capital Budget. He knows the other 6 filters at the Delaney Plant should be taken care of and after running the numbers it would be \$386,000 for the additional 6 to be done. He would also like to continue with the SCADA upgrade and that would be at a price of \$550,000. He is looking for a generator replacement for the Washington #6 Well and it would be able to be used at Washington 6 and the Old Post Road Booster Station. He says we must continue with the meter transmitter program. Lastly, which may or may not be needed, is the conventional cleaning of the raw water mains that feed the Willis Plant. This would cost by a contractor \$225,000 however they may try their own method without using a contractor. Mr. Maffei asks if these would be a combination of retained earnings and borrowing. Mr. Mattson responds that they do not typically borrow for small projects. He is recommending splitting the filters 3 one year and 3 the next. He also recommends not borrowing until the debt drops off. Mr. Abbott says they did not put any capital in the rates and they will have to firm things at their August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to adjourn. Second by John Spillane. Vote Fasanello – Aye, Spillane – Aye, Hasenjaeger – Aye, Maffei – Aye, Abbott – Aye. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

*Accepted August 10, 2020*