

April 12, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the E.J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

Present: John Spillane, Roger Turner, Kevin Muti, Patrick Fasanello and Ken Fettig. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water and Scott Gustafson, Asst. Supt. of Sewer and Water.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello to accept the minutes of March 12, 2010 with recommended corrected typos. Second by John Spillane. Vote 5-0-0.

WALPOLE PUBLIC LIBRARY – REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

There is discussion and reference is made to the Town Engineers comments where a sewer line needs protection. The Superintendent is asked to contact the project engineer and ask that they provide a plan either via email or through him showing how he intends to protect this existing sewer line. It is also asked that a letter be sent to the various boards stating that we have requested this and also that we concur with the comments made by the Town Engineer. This will be done.

600 MAIN ST. – REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

There is some discussion regarding this house being historical. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello that a letter be sent to various boards stating that this Board concurs with the comments of the Town Engineer. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 5-0-0.

WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY

Mr. Fettig says with all the rain we have recently encountered that this would be a very bad time to institute a water management policy. Mr. Mattson says the groundwater has already gone down 1.5 feet and says we need to tell the public now so we have the time to get the word out. Mr. Fettig suggests informing the public now, but changing the start date from May 3 to June 7. The Board discusses this thought and Mr. Mattson does not see a problem with it at this time. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to institute our Water Management Policy as presented by the Superintendent to go into effect on June 7, 2010, unless at the discretion of the Superintendent that this needs to be adjusted. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM 43 CAMPBELL ST

This is read and noted.

TOWN COUNSEL COSTS TO DATE FOR SEWER AND WATER LITIGATION

Mr. Mattson reports that this document is purely informational to let the Board know where things stand. The case is still ongoing and will be costing the ratepayers even more.

MARCH RAINFALL REPORT

This is read and noted.

YOP FOR RAILROADS

Mr. Fasanello asks if we get a list of what is being used for chemicals and Mr. Mattson says yes. Mr. Turner says that Conservation Commissioner Goetz has already requested that mechanical means only be used in aquifer areas.

CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION – CLEAN AND REDEVELOP WELLS

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello to send a memo to the Board of Selectmen stating that this Commission concurs with their Superintendent in recommending that the above bid be awarded to Maher Services in the amount of \$38,910. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0.

YEAR 3 INFLOW AND INFILTRATION REMOVAL PROGRAM

Mr. Mattson explains that this is for year 3 of I/I removal and there were three bids received and his recommendation is the same as Weston and Sampson's. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen stating that this Board concurs with the Superintendent of Sewer and Water in recommending the bid for Year 3 I/I removal be awarded to New England Pipe Cleaning Company in the amount of \$498,007.90. Second by Ken Fettig. Vote 5-0-0. Mr. Mattson speaks of contract with Weston and Sampson that should have been on the agenda tonight that is not. He will forward the information to the Board via email so that he can get things moving.

SWC SEWER REGULATION/SEWER BY LAW – VOTE FOR LANGUAGE UNIFORMITY

It is explained that Town Meeting had previously voted to change the by law for the total cost of a sewer project to state that the owners served by the project would be assessed 75% of the total cost of the project and the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners rules and regulations were never changed to reflect this. These rules and regulations still say the owners served would bear one half of the cost. Mr. Fettig does not want to change the Boards regulations; he feels it is too bad. It is explained that the Town By Laws overrule all other policies and regulations and it is just that things were not updated as they should have been. Even if we did not vote to correct our regulations should a controversy arise, the by laws would be what would be the deciding factor. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to change the Sewer & Water Commissioners rules and regulations to reflect what the Town Meeting had voted which is, "the owners served by the project shall be assessed 75% of the total cost of the project to the Town.....Second by Kevin Muti. Vote 4-1-0, Fettig against.

7:15 APPT. MR. BADALA, 105 BULLARD ST., BILL DISPUTE

Mr. Badala is present with Ms. Stivaletta. He explains that his mother is 93 years old and she had written to the Board seeking an abatement because she received an \$800 bill due to a hose that was left running and she is told that she will receive another large bill. He understands that it is not the fault of the Water Department but his parents have lived in town for 55 years and he would like to see them get a break. Her letter was reviewed by the Board and she received a letter that her request was denied. He is here tonight to ask for some consideration. There is some discussion and Mr. Muti says he does understand however there is a policy in place and if the Board deviated then there would be a lot of people coming back to them. There is a suggestion that they set up a financial arrangement with the Finance Department. Mr. Badala says his parents are 93 and 95 and is looking for some mercy. Mr. Fasanello explains that minutes are public and there would have to be a reason to abate a charge and age is not a reason. Mr. Turner speaks of the circuit breaker program for seniors and suggests they look into this. It is also suggested that he go to the Council on Aging to see if there is anyway they can receive assistance. Mr. Badala's request tonight is denied.

7:30 APPT. MR. STOCKMAN, 56 CHRISTINA DR. – BILL DISPUTE

Mr. Mattson explains that this is the typical replace the meter to find that the remote had slowed and therefore there is a catch up bill that was prorated. Mr. Muti asks if the meter had been tested and the answer is no. Mr. Stockman says he is not happy as he has always paid his bills on time and feels that perhaps a reading was swapped. Mr. Mattson explains that the meter is on the table if he cares to look at the numbers. Mr. Stockman says he has no way of knowing whether or not this is his meter. Mr. Mattson says they have serial numbers on them that are recorded in the office. Mr. Stockman says he has no way of knowing if the meter was dropped in meantime. Mr. Mattson explains that water passing through the meter is the only thing that would have changed the numbers and he is not happy with Mr. Stockman's expressions of mistrust. Mr. Mattson says there is no reason his staff would single out this person. Mr. Muti explains that the Board will follow past practice and send the meter out for testing, if he comes back within the acceptable limits the charge stands and if not they will revisit the account. Mr. Stockman walks out of the meeting very angry.

Mr. Muti reminds that the Planning Board is resuming their meeting for the WRPOD and Mr. McKinnon is confident of his original findings. The meeting is Thursday at 8:15 if anyone can make it.

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello to adjourn. Second by John Spillane. Vote 5-0-0.