

February 23, 2016

A workshop meeting and regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the 6:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: John Spillane, Tom Brown, Roger Turner, William Abbott and Patrick Fasanello. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water; James Johnson, Town Administrator; Jodi Cuneo, Town Accountant; and Marilyn Thompson, Finance Director.

The chairman opens the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Johnson explains that there was a \$50,000 increase in the debt and this would result in a rate increase of 9% and he understands that the Commission is looking for a 3-4%. He explains by eliminating a couple of the projects he is able to reduce the proposed increase to 4.05%. However he would like the Board to give him some kind of direction on what the Board would like to do with regard to the Old Post Road Tank. It has been on Capital Budget for at least 5 years and keeps getting pushed back. He would like to know if he should keep putting it on or take it off permanently. Mr. Abbott suggests taking one of the cast iron water main projects and moving it back and replace it with the Old Post Road tank. Mr. Mattson says someone needs to make a decision. There is discussion on the need for a place for the antennas and the fact that OPR is a 500,000 gallon tank and only 78% is usable. Mr. Johnson asks the Board to decide if they don't want to use it at all or put the demand on the back two tanks or rehabilitate. Mr. Spillane says he would like to see it repaired but just not this year and asks how long it would last. Mr. Mattson says about 40 years. He believes the most cost effective solution is to rehabilitate it. Mr. Johnson asks if they want to put it off for another year. He then asks about the proposed mixing systems. Mr. Mattson says these are not critical and can include the mixing systems as the tanks are rehabilitated.

Mr. Fasanello arrived at this time (6:10)

Mr. Mattson says the goal is to keep the rate increases as modest as possible and improve the infrastructure at the same time. If borrowing is knocked back to \$2.0 million instead of the proposed \$3.66 million and then added the regular increases and the O&M budget, the rate could be kept at 4%. Mr. Johnson says he just wants to be sure that the Sewer & Water Commission is comfortable the articles they are putting off and the articles that will be presented to Town Meeting. The Board agrees that they are comfortable with the water budget as discussed tonight. The sewer budget is then discussed. The Board is told the balance is \$2.1 million. Capital is \$225,000. However the rate is proposed to be increased by 11.35%. Mr. Johnson says he feels the Board wanted to keep the increase percentages close and we were looking for a 3 to 4% increase and if directed he and his staff could get to these numbers. He says if this is done now it would not have to go before Town Meeting in October as has been past practice because it would be part of the budget. Mr. Fasanello says he has looked at the other towns and the average increase was 3.1%. Mr. Mattson suggests he not pay attention to this as there is always a variety of capital projects. Mr. Spillane asks if there are any anticipated large sewer projects coming up and the answer is no. Mr. Spillane then says he would like to see us use retained earnings to lower the rate. Mr. Johnson says if directed to do so he will plug in the numbers to keep the rate increase to around 4%. Mr. Brown asks if collecting on the delinquent accounts would play a part in reducing the percentage and wonders if the Board should be more aggressive. There is discussion on liens, increasing fees and those who purposely let the account go to lien. Mr. Fasanello says he would like more frequent billing and Ms. Thompson says no that it is not possible. There is discussion on the billing cycles. Mr. Turner asks if billing costs would go up if the frequency increased and who would pay these costs. Ms. Thompson says her staff would be doing the work

which would be reflected in the indirect costs. She says the Finance Department does 4 commitments per week which is outrageous. Mr. Fasanello says if other utilities can bill monthly then we should be able to and Ms. Thompson replies that we could but it would be a lot of work. She adds that the Water Department is behind in getting the information to the Finance Department now. Mr. Fasanello asks why and Mr. Mattson says he will check into it as this is the first he's heard of it. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to authorize the Town Administrator to punch in the numbers using sewer retained earnings so that the increase in the sewer rate would be 3%. Second by Tom Brown. Mr. Abbott says he would like to see how much of the retained earnings would be used at 4% to keep in line with the water increase. He has no objection to 3% but would still like to see the numbers for both. Mr. Fasanello says he says 3% so it goes in line with all the other cities and towns. Mr. Mattson says you don't know what their infrastructure is. Vote on the motion 3-2-0, Abbott and Turner against. There is no voted need for the water percentage because retained earnings are not being used. The discussion goes to the delinquent accounts and the amount of times per year that bills are sent out. Mr. Turner asks what the impact to personnel would be in the sewer and water office if they went to monthly billing. Mr. Mattson responds that it would not have as much of an impact to his office as it would to the collector's office. Mr. Abbott asks about turning water off for nonpayment and Mr. Mattson says once the health department is notified they can shut it off. Mr. Johnson left the meeting at this time (6:30 p.m.) Mr. Fasanello says he would not agree to shutting off the water as there are always extenuating circumstances. He suggests diminishing the flow. Mr. Mattson says the "for profit" entities that are found to be delinquent should be the initial focus. Mr. Abbott tells of the time we posted a termination notice on the door and painted the gate box how effective it was. Mr. Mattson says the out of town accounts are good candidates to start with. Mr. Spillane says we can bring this up at another meeting.

JARVIS FARM USE REQUESTS

Recreation Director Patrick Shields is present for this discussion. This item is taken out of order. Mr. Shields had previously provided a list of requests for the use of Jarvis Farm. Mr. Mattson says there needs to be a central location for requests to use the Jarvis Farm. Mr. Shields says he would like to prepare an application and give it to the Sewer & Water Commission for approval. Mr. Fasanello says his main concern is parking, he would want to know how many cars for each event and where they are parking. Mr. Brown asks if there has been anything new with his sweet program and Mr. Mattson responds that he gave the information to the appropriate parties and has not heard anything. He will follow up on this. Mr. Fasanello says he got a call from a solar company from Natick who says they would like 6 acres. He also says that this is a water protection area and we need to look at requests carefully. There is discussion. **Motion Made** by William Abbott that those wishing to use Jarvis Farm should apply to the Recreation Department who in turn will give it to the Sewer & Water Commission for approval. Second by Tom Brown. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion Made by Tom Brown that the request of the Girl Scouts to use Jarvis Farm on May 6 and 7, 2016 be approved by this Board. Second by William Abbott. Vote 5-0-0.

Motion Made by William Abbott to approve all the requests that were on Mr. Shield's list tonight contingent upon it interfering with the Little League Schedule. Second by Roger Turner. Vote 4-1-0, Fasanello against. There is then discussion regarding the summer camp and Mr. Shields that there has been a lot of interest expressed. He is asked how many are anticipated and he answers it was capped at a 40-80 window. He is then asked if there would be a nurse on site and Mr. Shields says yes, through the Visiting Nurse. Mr. Spillane asks to confirm that the Sewer & Water Commission will get 20% of the profit and the answer is yes. Mr. Fasanello asks about the swimming. He is told that a company has been hired under contract to keep it in swimmable condition. He then asks the cost and who pays. Mr. Mattson says the cost is about \$6,000 and will come out of the O&M budget.

Motion Made by William Abbott to accept the minutes of January 25, 2016 as amended tonight. Second by John Spillane. Vote 5-0-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Mattson refers to the emails that have been going back and forth regarding water quality issues. He says they are being address and they continue to flush as in the area. The engineer is considering possibly suggesting adding sodium silicate for iron control. He says there is nothing else to report.

GREASE PROBLEM AT 996 MAIN ST, RAVENS NEST AND RESPONSE FROM OWNER

Attorney Macchi and Vice President of Walpole Cooperative Bank Philip Prescott are present for this discussion. Mr. Mattson explains that there was excessive grease noticed in the sewer main that services the post office, Ravens Nest and the bank which discharges to the Stone/School Streets sewer. The grease appears to be contained to the parking lot area of the back of the building. Previously there was a real build up and it caused damage to the bank and therefore Mr. Mattson says sent them a letter requiring an outside grease trap be installed and the plans are underway. Once the plans are complete Hockman will be installing it and this trap will solve the problem. Mr. Macchi says he is representing the bank and is here tonight to monitor the conversation. Mr. Prescott provides pictures of the sewer line taken this morning which is showing a good amount of grease again. He would like the solution expedited and would like the system purged again. There is discussion on the amount of damage that was caused. Mr. Brown asks if some type of backflow preventer could be installed and Mr. Mattson responds that there could be a check valve and then clean it inside out but if it goes past the check it would not be able to be pulled out. Mr. Mattson asks if there is a maintenance record and Mr. Mattson says it was provided in the past and the problem is that the trap is not sized properly. Mr. Glossa is present for a different appointment but is also the engineer for Raven's Nest. He says the trap now is in the sink, too small and not maintained. He is waiting for the plumber to get the pipe from the sinks to the outside wall. There is further discussion. Mr. Glossa says he will speak to his client tomorrow. They are not doing anything to worsen the situation. Mr. Fasanello asks if a truck will be able to pump out the new trap and Mr. Glossa says there is plenty of room. Mr. Abbott asks if we are supposed to inspect them and Mr. Mattson responds that we have done it in the past but not recently. Mr. Fasanello says there was a similar situation on Route 1 and asks if it has been abated. Mr. Mattson answers not completely, it is a very common problem in restaurant areas. There is discussion on the chemical called "Biobug" which eats grease.

7:15 JOHN GLOSSA RE: PROPOSED DUNKIN DONUTS, OLD POST RD.

Mr. Glossa and the owners of the property are present (Twins Realty Trust). Mr. Glossa explains that site plan approval was received by the Planning Board for 2 buildings; the Dunkin Donuts and the other a pharmacy. The pharmacy has lost interest. A potentially second option is a bank however they want a free standing building so there is a new plan drawn for the bank and then a separate building that would be presumably retail. When the pharmacy was proposed the size of the building required a fire suppression system. This requirement is no longer there. They are now requesting approval for a 1" line to feed Dunkin Donuts and a 2" line to feed the other 2 buildings. They would come from the 6" line and Mr. Mattson suggested they present this to the Board. Mr. Brown confirms the original 8" was required only if there was a fire suppression system and the answer is yes. Mr. Fasanello says he has concern over the driveway/parking in our watershed and which way that the salt, etc. may run. Mr. Glossa speaks of the storm water management regulations and says what falls on the pavement would go to the stormceptor. He says they will be environmental catch basins and the Board would have a second bite on comments as they have to go back to the Planning Board. At that time this Commission could ask for conditions on ice control. Because they will not run the 8" line there will have to be a tee instead of a tap and sleeve. The only modification is to the waterline. Mr. Glossa says he just wanted to bring this to

the attention of the Commission with regard to the water layout and make sure there is no huge problem. He did not want to go through everything and then find out the Commission has a problem. Mr. Mattson warns that the flow in this area is very deficient and Mr. Glossa responds says they tested and it is not up to commercial standard. Mr. Mattson says it is not even close.

WESTON & SAMPSON INFLOW AND INFILTRATION UPDATE

Present from Weston and Sampson is Hillary Lacirignola and Kate Perotti. A handout is provided which summarizes the completed inflow and infiltration program that they performed and Ms. Lacirignola goes through it for discussion purposes. She says the entire Town has been done and we were ranked low (38 out of 43). She is recommending that the Town continue with the Program. MA regulations is being revised and an I/I program is now required and reported to the MWRA. This will be effective December of 2017 and continuing the program will allow the Town to comply with the new regulations. Mr. Mattson says the State strongly suggests that anything over 15,000 gallons for a sewer extension should be 4:1 ratio. There is discussion on the areas and cost effectiveness of the different projects. Mr. Fasanello asks if we can change our ratio and Mr. Mattson says our consultants are currently reviewing this. He is the same person who reviewed our entrance fees. Mr. Fasanello feels there needs to be a penalty system for inflow. Mr. Mattson says this can be addressed when we update our rules and regulations. He asks if the Board is inclined to continue with the program. Ms. Lacirignola recommends that the Town proceed with the program in some form. She would like to meet with the Superintendent to determine the most problem areas and then come up with an annual program. This will be done.

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION, 32 JORIE LA., CONKLIN

All available information was reviewed and discussed. The meter was tested and was accurate and the water passed through the meter. The Board wants to remain consistent and adhere to their rules and regulations. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to send a letter to Mr. Conklin rejecting his request for consideration on his water charges for 32 Jorie Lane. However, our current fee schedule states that a \$100.00 meter test charge would be applied for a meter test unless the meter was found to be faulty. This charge should be waived. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-1-0, Brown against.

CONCOM REQ. FOR COMMENTS, 100 ELM ST, NOI AND LAND DISTURBANCE PERMIT

Mr. Mattson says this is associated with the old Kendall Building at 95 West Street and he is not sure we would have concerns at this time as we would not be involved in this portion of the project. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to concur with the comments of the Town Engineer. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0.

PLANNING BD. REQ. FOR COMMENTS JITEN HOTEL REVISED PLAN

Mr. Fasanello asks if they are doing all that they were asked. Mr. Mattson tells that Weston and Sampson is doing a capacity study to see if their addition would compound the sewer odor problem that already exists in the area. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to concur with the comments of the Town Engineer with regard to the above subject. Second by William Abbott. Vote 5-0-0.

P. BD. REQ. FOR COMMENTS, DISANGRO 24, 28, 23, & 27 PRODUCTION RD. SITE PLAN

All plans and information are discussed and reviewed. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to concur with the comments of the Town Engineer. Second by John Spillane. Vote 5-0-0.

COMMENTS BY TOWN ENGINEER RE: EASTOVER RD. PROPOSED CONDOMINIUMS

Mr. Mattson says this is purely informational. Mr. Fasanello asks if they are looping the water main and Mr. Mattson says they are investigating the possibility of extending it to Diamond Pond Terrace.

There is discussion on an employee recognition luncheon that Mr. Fasanello emailed the other Commissioners. Mr. Turner asks how it would be funded. Mr. Mattson says he will look into things and discuss it with the DPW Director.

Motion Made by Patrick Fasanello to adjourn. Second by John Spillane. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Accepted 3/14/16