

**October 23, 2017**

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, October 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington Street.

Present: John Spillane, William Abbott, Tom Brown, and Patrick Fasanello. Also, Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water.

Absent: John Hasenjaeger

The meeting is called to order by the Chairman.

All abatements submitted tonight are reviewed and signed.

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

Mr. Mattson reports that the water main on William Street is complete. The Old Post Road tank exterior coat is completed and the tarps will be removed so the rain is not held. One half of the inside is primed and they have more pit welding to do inside. His crew has completed the Moosehill Rd. water main. Tests for bacteria and VOC's are needed. Mr. Abbott asks about Plain Street and Mr. Mattson says this will be next and then it will be Harding Road. Mr. Spillane asks if we have all the signatures for the easement on Wilson Street and the answer is all but one and this person is not opposed to it however they are not willing to sign the waiver. Mr. Mattson tells that Counsel is preparing the Order of Taking and they will take a 40' easement.

**Motion Made** by William Abbott to accept the minutes with recommended correction of June 12, 2017. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0.

**Motion Made** by William Abbott to accept the minutes of September 25, 2017 with recommended correction. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0.

### **PLANNING BD. COMMENT REQUEST – 26 BAKER ST. 2-LOT SUBDIVISION (BROLLY)**

The Board has concurred with the comments of the Town Engineer and has no further comment.

### **7:15 SEWER AND WATER EMPLOYEE DISCUSSION**

Present for this discussion is water technicians Chris Smith, Craig Dalton, Ken Riley, Maureen Cobb and Carla Leahy. Mr. Brown says he has invited all employees to address the rumor that this Commission is in favor of privatizing. He explains the Commission's obligation for indirect charges and he would like to see if these costs could be reduced by bringing some of the work in house and possibly hire more people if needed. He talks of the \$600,000 for the town garage and thought it might be worth investigating if it would be financially beneficial to have our own garage and mechanics. Mr. Dalton asks how much is given back to the general fund every year and the answer is \$1.5 million in indirects. Mr. Fasanello speaks of the in-house projects that have already been done such as Moosehill Rd., North St. and Pine St. water mains and how much money has been saved by doing this. Mr. Mattson reads Mr. Brown's previous motion and states it says "reduction of staff". Mr. Brown says this was misinterpreted he meant reduction of outside staff and bring inside. Ms. Cobb asks who would do the audit and she is told it would be an outside consultant. Mr. Brown says we are supposed to be charged for services based on the lowest paid person in the office and Mr. Mattson disagrees, he says that is for public records requests. Ms. Cobb asks how much it would cost to do an audit. Mr. Abbott says they would have to first get a cost and then ask town meeting for an appropriation. Mr. Dalton asks if the auditor recommends a reduction in staff how it would be addressed. Mr. Brown says it would have to be discussed however he is not in favor of any staff reduction. Mr. Fasanello says the Sewer & Water Commission is a policy making Board that is elected to protect the ratepayer's money. He says the Town Administrator is their legal agent and they can only

direct him to tell Mr. Mattson what to do. Mr. Dalton asks if the Board of Selectmen could dissolve the Sewer & Water Commission and he is told it would take a charter change. Mr. Brown says he is not for privatization of water and sewer however he feels the Board needs to get more control over the water and sewer funds. He is always around town and is willing to have a friendly conversation with any of them. Ms. Cobb says to hear such a rumor is scary. Mr. Brown feels they all do a fabulous job. Mr. Fasanello would like to see the Water and Sewer Departments separate from the rest of the DPW because water and sewer has special skills and licenses. He would also like to see coverage of the department from 6:00 am to 11:00 p.m. every day. Mr. Brown talks about encountering a situation where he called Mr. Riley because he had his phone number and knew his dad. He says he is always around town and would like to know how to contact whoever is on duty should he run into a situation rather than calling the Police Dept. Ms. Leahy would like to thank the Board for inviting them in and clarifying things. Mr. Spillane says the employees should have no worries. Mr. Brown invites everyone to all of their meetings.

### **WALPOLE COUNTRY CLUB REQUEST OFOR TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY**

Mr. Mattson reports that this is a seasonal request to occur every year using a temporary service. Currently the water they are pumping has high chloride and it wreaks havoc on the greens. Their consultant believes it is runoff from Route 95. Mr. Brown thought it was tracked to the State yard at Rte. 27 where rock salt is stored. Mr. Mattson says they are asking for 250,000 gallons per year to wash the greens. Mr. Spillane says that this seems like a horrible waste of water. Mr. Brown asks if there would be any special rates applied. Mr. Abbott says it probably cost \$2,000 and they are already paying \$4,000 and he does not feel like it is a lot of water, his concern would be a cross connection. Mr. Mattson says it would be a hydrant connection that would be metered. Mr. Fasanello speaks of the country club getting water from the Town of Sharon. Mr. Spillane expresses concern over telling the residents that they can't water their lawns yet allowing this. Mr. Brown asks about the time of day and Mr. Mattson responds that the plans are preliminary and if this Board is not amenable to this they will go to another plan. Mr. Abbott says this is not a large amount. His concern is the protection of our system. He feels there are many homes that use more than this. Mr. Mattson suggests that they could set a separate rate for this. There is discussion on SWIMMI and how golf courses are exempt from the WMA. It is the decision of the Board to invite the representatives in to discuss this. Mr. Brown asks the condition of the mains that the hydrants would be drawn from and Mr. Mattson says Baker St. is not in the best shape. They will be invited to our meeting.

### **REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION 19 DELAPA CIRCLE**

There is discussion on our policy where any water passing through the meter must be paid for and since it went into the sewer they must be charged for that also. This is our past practice. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to deny this request for a reduction on their water/sewer bill. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0.

### **REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION 58 PEACH ST.**

Mr. Mattson explains that this person has a private well that is metered so that we can charge him for the sewer discharge. The homeowner claimed that his valve malfunctioned on his Culligan water purifier and dumped his well water onto the ground. There is discussion and no one can understand how this is possible. Mr. Mattson will have the site visited to investigate if this is possible. This is tabled until there is further information.

### **150 COMMON ST. DOCUMENT DEADLINE**

Mr. Mattson reports that this homeowner was to provide recorded legal documents to the Board by today which stated that if the property was sold they would install a separate dedicated water service to the out building to the main water line in Common Street. He is asked what to do and he responds that he would shut the water off. Mr. Fasanello and Mr. Brown are not in favor of shutting the water off. Mr. Brown says perhaps he did not get the letter. It is suggested that Mr. Mattson call him to see why he has not provided the documents. There is discussion and it is decided to invite the homeowner in to discuss this.

## **PLANNING BOARD COMMENT REQUEST PINE ACRES, 385 NORTH ST. REVISED PLANS**

The Commission has already concurred with the comments of the Town Engineer. This is read and noted.

## **DEP'S PILOT STUDY APPROVAL**

Mr. Mattson says the DEP has no problem with this study and is only requiring one season. Mr. Brown asks the cost and is told by Mr. Mattson that it is in the next correspondence and it is \$196,400 which is good. He adds Town Meeting authorized \$500,000. He paid the engineers \$30,000 today and they can use a portion of the rest of the money for legal costs. Mr. Brown asks if we have done anything yet with the legal and Mr. Mattson responds not yet we are waiting on the costs.

## **WATER LEAK REPAIR – 79 EDGEWOOD AVE.**

Mr. Mattson says the homeowner is in the process of securing a contractor. Mr. Brown thought we offered to help and then bill them. Mr. Mattson says they feel they should not have to pay anything as they feel our construction on the street caused vibrations which caused the pipe to break. He told them that once the leak is found and the repair is made they can look at the pipe and send their findings to our insurance company. Mr. Fasanella would like us to fix it. Mr. Brown says he needs a deadline for the repair as it is free flowing water. Mr. Fasanella says if it is not fixed by October 27<sup>th</sup> then the Town should fix. Mr. Brown says if it is not done by this date then our crew should show up to do the repair. Mr. Mattson says we have no right to trespass. Mr. Fasanella says we are not trespassing. He wants an estimate done on how much water is wasted and bill the homeowner for it. Mr. Brown says he is costing the ratepayers money. Mr. Mattson says based on their conversation he is attempting to resolve this. Mr. Brown would like the town to do it if it is not done by the first meeting in November. Mr. Abbott feels we should check with Counsel first to make sure we can do this. Mr. Mattson believes we might be able to get a right of entry form. Mr. Fasanella says we need to bill him for the water. Mr. Abbott adds that he still has until the 27<sup>th</sup> and we should wait until then. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to wait until October 27<sup>th</sup> to see if he has a contractor to fix with a specific date and if not bill then him for the water from the date the leak was discovered. Mr. Mattson should send a group email to the Commission with an update on the Monday after the 27<sup>th</sup>. Vote 4-0-0.

## **I/I PROTEST AND LAW SUIT**

Mr. Mattson reports that Town Counsel will be coming to the November 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to discuss this. This is tabled.

## **PROPRIETARY SPECIFICATION INFORMATION**

Mr. Mattson explains that this was before the Board prior to a meeting held before Town Meeting last Monday, however it was never voted. He is asking that he be allowed to use a proprietary specification for Grid Bee storage mixing systems by Medora. He explains why this is necessary. There is some discussion on mixing systems. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to approve the use of a proprietary specification and undertake a sole source procurement for Grid Bee storage tank mixing systems manufactured by Medora Corporation. Second by John Spillane. Vote 4-0-0.

## **COMMISSIONER FASANELLO'S PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

Mr. Fasanella provides a handout to the other 4 Commissioners with the resolution he is proposing. Mr. Fasanella says he does not want any monies used until this Board has seen the dollar amount that is to be taken, i.e. indirects. He feels we raise the rates and we should know when and where it is taken from the Town Administrator via a letter. Mr. Abbott does not feel that this is an unreasonable request. Mr. Mattson says it is usually seen for the first time during the annual budget message. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanella to order the Town of Walpole Administrator until otherwise directed, to cause or have cause the following: That, no monies shall be proposed to be expended from the water and sewer retained

earnings or water and/or sewer enterprise fund without the expressed notification and approval of the Sewer & Water Commission. Second by Tom Brown. Vote 3-0-1, Spillane abstained.

Mr. Robert O'Leary would like to speak about 26 Baker Street. He feels there may be an additional lot in the future. Mr. Brown says they can only go by what's in front of them. There is discussion on the sewer connections and whether or not this is a private road or not. Mr. O'Leary just wanted to discuss the plans.

### **INDIRECT COST INFORMATION**

Mr. Fasanello that he does not understand all the information that was provided, they already know this. Mr. Abbott says the backup is here but not how it was arrived at. Mr. Fasanello feels it just a lot of paper, he is not objecting to indirect charges however he wants it to be fair. Mr. Brown asks how much we spend per year on vehicle maintenance and Mr. Mattson explains that he buys the parts from his budget. He says he has a specific account for maintenance and repair of vehicles. Mr. Brown asks how the other departments pay and he is told it comes out of the general fund. Mr. Mattson is then asked by Mr. Fasanello if they pay us when we do plowing and Mr. Mattson says it comes out of the snow and ice budget. Mr. Fasanello says he needs to know the time we put into these things. There is discussion. Mr. Mattson explains that the Board had asked for more detail and some departments replied and others didn't. Mr. Fasanello wants to see back up. Mr. Brown gives an example; if we are paying 5% of the highway budget then what is their budget and why don't we do our own patching. Mr. Mattson says we do our own patching but use their equipment. Mr. Brown wants a more detailed explanation on how the numbers were arrived at.

Mr. Brown asks the status of the inclining block investigation and Mr. Mattson says it a work in progress and right now they are trying to figure out whether to use the KP System or the Munis System.

Mr. Mattson says Mr. Johnson has had a lengthy conversation with Mr. Carroll of Norwood who is amenable to us connecting to their water system. He says he would charge whatever they pay the MWRA plus 15%.

Mr. Brown asks about the stipulations the Board set on the new DPW garage. Mr. Mattson says with regard to the monitor well the information for Washington 2, hydrologic data is in the hands of the consultant to determine the best location and how deep. The survey for hazardous materials has not been performed yet.

### **REGULATION UPDATE**

Mr. Brown tables this for now.

**Motion Made** by John Spillane to adjourn. Second by William Abbott. Vote 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

*Accepted November 23, 2017*