

September 25, 2017

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, September 25, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at the Edward J. Delaney Water Treatment Plant, 1303 Washington St.

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

The meeting is called to order by the Chairman at 7:00 p.m.
No abatements are submitted tonight.

Mr. Brown would like to state that there is a rumor going around and an employee of the Water and Sewer Department told him that he believes that the Commission is actively supporting privatizing water and sewer. The employee is passionate about being afraid of losing his job. He wants to set the record straight and says this Commission is not looking to privatize and he would like to invite all water and sewer employees to the next meeting if they would like to discuss this.

SUPERINTENDENT'S STATUS REPORT

Mr. Mattson says the Old Post Road tank project is underway and progressing well. He had sent pictures to Board members showing the sediment after 40 years. He feels the timing was good or a couple of years too late as while sandblasting, because it is so thin, there was a hole that required repair as well as other repairs. The contractor has worked on the trenches on Williams Street and Barstow Road and once completed they will bring in the pipe crew. The demand for water is in check and manageable. Other than that all has been quiet and he has nothing new to report.

BOARD OF APPEALS COMMENT REQUEST, 71 HARVARD STREET

Mr. Mattson says the only reason this is on the agenda is because there was so much discussion on inlaw apartments and this is attached. This is read and noted.

CONCOM COMMENT REQUEST – MEMORIAL POND

Mr. Mattson says this is a ConCom issue with a filing of the Notice of Intent. Mr. Fasanello asks if there is fountain in the pond and the answer is that it is an aeration fountain. Mr. Fasanello then feels they should have to come before the Board, all others disagree.

REQUEST FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEM – 8 HOUND PACK CIR

The homeowner of this address is requesting permission to install an irrigation system as per their deed restriction. **Motion Made** by Patrick Fasanello to allow this request. Second by William Abbott. Vote 5-0-0.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING WILSON STREET EASEMENT

Residents of Harding Road and Barstow Road are present for this discussion and those present have signed in. Mr. Harrington of 40 Barstow Road is being the spokesperson for those in attendance. He reviews the past history of brown water and the improvements made on Harding St. He also talks of the "T's" left which will be connected tomorrow most likely tomorrow. Another "T" was left in the hopes of looping the main via Wilson Street. He speaks of all their frustrations and the fact that Walpole takes such pride in their water quality which they are not receiving. It is his understanding that by looping the water main the water they are receiving would improve greatly however it appears that there is an issue with obtaining permissions for an easement on Wilson Street. Mr. Mattson says there are 9 abutters to Wilson Street and his office has sent letters for waiver of damages signatures however to date they have only received 5 back. There is discussion regarding taking the easements by eminent domain however then the Town is subject to

damages. There is then a suggestion not to put it in the center of Wilson St., rather install it along the Barstow side of the street. Mr. Mattson says then there is not enough room for the 20 foot easement. Mr. Abbott says it would be much easier to get the signatures or town meeting would have to be involved thus delaying the project. Timing of construction is discussed and Mr. Mattson says looping is not in the contractor's contract. Mr. Brown asks what needs to be done then and Mr. Mattson says he could put in a change order. Mr. Fasanello asks why the town forces couldn't do it and Mr. Mattson says that this was his original plan. Two of the missing signatures are present tonight, one has sent in their document and the other needs the document to sign. Mr. Spillane asks why someone cannot go to the three houses and obtain their signatures. Mr. Harrington offers to attempt to obtain the signatures and therefore the documents will be emailed to him tomorrow. If signatures are unobtainable then they would have to go with eminent domain. Robert Kelly of 55 Harding Road asks to speak. He says he is victim of Agent Orange and the chemicals in the water, most specifically potassium, is affecting his kidneys and wants to know if it is filtered out. Mr. Mattson says we do not filter, in fact we add potassium. Mr. Kelly would like to speak with our chemist and he is told we do not have one. He is told that Mr. Mattson will give a list of chemicals and their concentrations and then he should take it up with his doctors. Marilyn Kelly of the same address then asks to speak. She speaks of the staining in her tubs and toilets and would like her water tested as she and her husband have health issues. Mr. Mattson says he can give her the name of labs that can test for her but it depends on what she wants it tested for. She says she want the iron tested. He says we can do that in house and will make arrangements. Mrs. Duveau of 56 Harding Road then speaks. She would just like the pipes put in and then her chain link fence put back up.

7:30 APPT. MWRA

Present from the MWRA for this discussion is Fred Lasky, Executive Director; Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager; and Sean Navin, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. Also present for this discussion is Town Administrator, Jim Johnson. Mr. Mattson opens with he has invited the MWRA on behalf of the Board to discuss a potential ancillary water connection to the MWRA as a supplement to our wells. Ms. Heidell coordinated the meeting. Mr. Lasky provides a power point handout to review. The presentation included explanation of the service area, projects, storage tanks, monitoring systems, criteria and approvals needed to join the system, processes, fees, rates, and the quality of their water. Walpole's water would come the Southern Extra High System, the Bellevue Tank in West Roxbury, then to Norwood. Ms. Heidell then speaks and says the DEP distinguishes between abandonment and inactive wells. If a source is not being used it is not abandoned but rather inactive. She also talks about demand management like leak detection. Ms. Heidell recommends consulting the regulators from DEP, MEPA and Water Resources Commission early. She asks what type of demand the Town is looking for and Mr. Mattson responds .5 mgd initially. There is discussion on current and projected water needs. Ms. Heidell speaks on joining the MWRA in increments and providing what the Town's water use projections are. Mr. Fasanello says we are experiencing a lot more customers, with the hotels, 40B's etc. We could do more wells but that would be difficult. He feels at this time we are giving less water for more money. Mr. Lasky suggests that our first step would be to talk to Norwood to see if they have the capacity to handle Walpole if a separate line would be needed. We should also check Norwood's infrastructure. Ms. Heidell says the MWRA has no preference on this. Since Canton is partial MWRA water the mix of water may be a problem if we chose to connect that way. Mr. Brown asks Mr. Mattson if he felt .5 mg would be enough and he answers for now yes, and they could increase incrementally. Mr. Brown asks what about in 10 years and Mr. Mattson felt we would still be ok. Mr. Brown asks about our Master Plan. Mr. Johnson answers that most of land in Town is used up however existing properties recycle and water demand would change. Mr. Lasky briefly talks on the grants and loans available as an MWRA member. Mr. Brown asks if the .5mgd would allow them to forego the water ban and Mr. Mattson says no, and wonders why he would want to. Ms. Heidell says the MWRA wants the use of water to be done smartly. Mr. Fasanello says allowing outside watering recharges the groundwater. Mr. Hasenjaeger feels some are missing the idea, this water is to cover the spread of growth with supply. He then asks if the other towns have the right to say no to our connection and Mr. Lasky says in theory they possibly could. He would like to know who from the MWRA would help with their coordinating this and Mr. Lasky says it would be Ms. Heidell who

has a lot of experience with this. Mr. Fasanello asks what it would cost for entrance and Ms. Heidell says it is \$4.3 million per mg or for the .5 mg we were looking for it would be \$2.15 million. This can be paid over 25 years with grace on the first 3 years and 23 years interest free. Mr. Abbott it sounds like the Board would like to actively pursue this however a lot of discussion needs to take place. Mr. Fasanello says this is what we have Town Administration for. Mr. Johnson asks if we should just ask for the 500,000 mg, prorate and if we needed 1 mg we would then renegotiate? Ms. Heidell suggests that if they going to ask for it, they should ask for high. The process is discussed; Speak with Norwood if they say yes, they need to go to town meeting, MEPA review and Legislature. Mr. Fasanello says he does not believe they need town meeting because this Commission has exclusive control of the water system per the Charter. Ms. Heidell says there is no specific order for these approvals. Mr. Johnson suggests that the Board authorize himself and Mr. Mattson to begin negotiations with Norwood. Mr. Hasenjaeger feels it is too premature to go to town meeting. Mr. Johnson adds that we should get the approvals first and get the paperwork and then do town meeting. **Motion Made** by William Abbott to authorize the Town Administrator and Mr. Mattson to begin the process of investigating a connection with Norwood for MWRA water and possibly the Water Resource Commission with the intent of a supplement to the Town's water supply. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0.

VIOLATION WAIVER REQUEST – 8 VICTORIA CIRCLE

Mr. Cooper has sent a letter to the Board explaining his reason for the violation. **Motion Made** by John Spillane to follow past practice and waive this \$50.00 fine however should another violation occur it will be considered a second violation at \$100.00 and the first violation of \$50.00 will be reapplied. Second by Patrick Fasanello. Vote 5-0-0.

FATM ZONING ARTICLES HEARING DATE

Mr. Hasenjaeger asks how these effect water and sewer and Mr. Mattson answers that they do not. This is read and noted.

FATM ARTICLES

Read and noted.

DEP'S SANITARY SURVEY RESULTS

This is done every 3-5 years. If they are concerned they will do it more often. Mr. Mattson says our deficiencies are negligible and it is a very positive report. Any deficiencies have already been addressed.

Mr. Brown asks if there is any clarification as to whether or not we can use I/I money towards water conservation. Mr. Mattson says he does not yet have a clear and concise answer and will try to have it for the next meeting. Mr. Brown the water conservation program at the next meeting.

DIOXANE PILOT STUDY PROPOSAL

Mr. Mattson says this is the proposal that has gone to DEP for review and comments and is pending approval. They hope to start in November.

WATER LEAK DETECTION SURVEY

Mr. Hasenjaeger says this is very nice and professional job.

Mr. Brown asks for the status of the audit he requested. Mr. Mattson says the Town Administrator reached out to MMA. There is discussion. Mr. Mattson adds that indirect costs are being reviewed and the Town Accountant was in contact with the DOR and has established policy changes. He will get things assembled for the next meeting.

Inclining block rate is then discussed. Mr. Abbott says numbers are being refined. Mr. Brown asks when we will be doing the parallel billing and Mr. Mattson says that will happen once there is resolution to the bad numbers. Mr. Abbott says we have time.

Mr. Hasenjaeger says now that we have solid answers from the MWRA, we can consolidate our thoughts and this is a good time to be dealing with them.

Motion Made by John Spillane to adjourn. Second by William Abbott. Vote 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Accepted October 23, 2017