

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
July 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on July 17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at the Newton Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street, Newton. Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Ms. Unhoch, Mr. Vrahnos, Mr. Pham and Chairman Lawler. Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water Sewer Supervisor, Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, and Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. were also in attendance. Mrs. Millikin was excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to approval of the minutes from the June 19, 2012 meeting. Chairman Lawler then made a motion to accept the revised minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The revised minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first order of business was for William Hall by Wendy Celentano, Executor of 77 Ryerson Avenue. Ms. Celentano was requesting a waiver of the delinquent penalty on the account because she has not yet received the paperwork from the Surrogate's Office to open the Estate checking account. Mr. Lawler stated that this is a quandary because the Town has no obligation to wait for payment and waive the penalty. Ms. Unhoch stated that she did not feel the penalty should be waived. Mr. Vrahnos inquired as to whether there was an estate from which payment could be drawn. Mr. Baldwin explained that she was unable to access money from the estate at this time. Ms. Unhoch stated that Ms. Celentano could pay and be reimbursed, and that the penalty was minimal. Mr. Pham motioned to deny the request and it was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The appeal was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

There being no more old business, Chairman Lawler inquired about the Water Filtration Plant. Mr. Baldwin explained that everything was running smoothly. Chairman Lawler then asked about the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Baldwin stated that there was a problem with the R.B.C.S. Chairman Lawler asked if there was an impact on operation and Mr. Baldwin said that everything should be okay.

Regarding the engineer's report, Mr. Simmons stated that the water allocation from the D.E.P. provided for the Pine Swamp Diversion and he is waiting for the draft to be approved. Everything has been ordered for the Maple Avenue project and the tap is done on Route 206. He further explained that the tough news is that there is a great deal of rock where the Crew is digging. Because the alignment is staked out, they are going to make test holes to determine if there is rock throughout the entire alignment.

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Mr. Baldwin stated that it has been taking two days to lay each pipe and at this rate, the project will take six months. Mr. Simmons said that one option is to put a temporary main above ground, but Mr. Baldwin stated that this is very difficult. Chairman Lawler stated that he hoped there was not rock all the way down. Mr. Simmons said that he thought the test holes would be a good idea. Mr. Baldwin said that they need to be done by winter and stated that the machine rental is costly.

Mr. Simmons reported that he received another call from the engineer regarding the Lower Glen Lake Dam. He said they were ordered to upgrade their dam. He explained that Newton has the original main that went through the dam. When the August 2000 flood occurred, that main became unavailable for potable water. The main was kept because in the '70's, the 16 inch main used the Morris Lake Dam hole that was also used to lower the lake. There was some discussion with the engineer who was concerned about the old pipe. Mr. Simmons said that he will have to go over the easements with Mark Hontz, the Town attorney. Chairman Lawler asked if the original main was cast iron, and Mr. Simmons replied affirmatively that it was wrought iron which is the same as cast iron. Mr. Simmons stated that he found an old photograph of when the lake was dry and it looks like the pipe was laid on the lake bottom in 1894. He stated that research needs to be done to make sure the Town's interests are protected. Chairman Lawler expressed concern about penetration of the dam. Mr. Simmons stated that there was one manhole, but it was more of a manhole used to test for chlorine. He said that Sparta Glen received a letter from the D.E.P. for exemption, and he is going to get a meeting scheduled. Mr. Simmons then concluded his report.

Mr. Vrahnos inquired about the recent water main break in Drake Manor, and a brief discussion of same took place regarding the importance of people calling for mark outs before they dig.

There being no other business to discuss, Chairman Lawler motioned to close the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton