

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
February 19, 2013

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on February 19, 2013, 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: Mr. Pham, Mr. Vrahnos and Chairman Lawler. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water Sewer Superintendent, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, were also in attendance. Mrs. Millikin and Ms. Unhoch were excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to approval of the minutes from the November 20, 2012 meeting. Mr. Vrahnos made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Pham. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first order of business was for John & Kathleen McChesney of 29 & 29 ½ Mt. View Street, requesting waiver of penalties on bills they never received. Mrs. Shackleton explained that after the McChesneys closed on their home in July of 2012, the deed was incorrectly filed by their attorney, making it unable to be changed in the Town's water and tax systems. Consequently, the bill went to the address of the prior owners. Mr. Vrahnos asked if the McChesneys were new to Town and Mrs. Shackleton replied that they owned another property in Town. Mrs. McChesney was present and explained that the deed was indeed filed in August with the County and provided proof of same. After a brief discussion, because the deed was indeed date stamped August from the County, Chairman Lawler motioned to waive the penalties. Mr. Pham seconded and the appeal was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The next order of business was the schedule of 2013 UAB meetings. Chairman Lawler asked if there were any problems with the meeting schedule and motioned to pass the schedule. Mr. Vrahnos seconded and it was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The only order of old business was the updates on two accounts from the prior meeting. Chairman Lawler was pleased to see that both accounts had usage for the first quarter of 2013 that was consistent with normal usage for both properties. Chairman Lawler requested that Mrs. Shackleton inform the Board if there are any issues with either property in the future.

A last-minute amendment to the agenda was for the Newton Board of Education, requesting credit for sewer charges caused by a water leak. Mr. Baldwin

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explained that there was a leak below the floor in the kitchen of the Halsted Street School. Usage for the school was nearly double for the quarter, and Mr. Baldwin explained that if they were to be credited for 90,000 gallons worth of sewer charges, the adjustment would be \$475. Chairman Lawler motioned to grant the adjustment and Mr. Pham seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

There being no other issues, Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Baldwin about the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Baldwin stated that everything was running smoothly and that Morris Lake is five inches below the spillway. He added that they are doing the electric for the solar panels at the plant and Chairman Lawler asked how long it would be until they were finished. Mr. Baldwin replied that it seemed as though they were in a rush to begin, but not to finish. Chairman Lawler stated that the Solar Panels at the High School took a great deal of time to finish, but they withstood Hurricane Sandy. He asked if the panels were on the building. Mr. Baldwin stated that they are on the ground and that they were cut in half because of the wetland. Chairman Lawler stated that he is curious to see how much is saved by the panels. Mr. Vrahnos stated that at Lucent, the panels move with the sun and Mr. Lawler stated that the panels mounted to the building are more effective than the ones on the ground.

In the Engineer's report, Mr. Simmons stated that there was a tour given to the new attorneys, beginning at Morris Lake and ending at the pump station on High Street. From there, Mr. Baldwin led them on a tour of the sewer plant.

Mr. Simmons reported that the D.E.P. was in agreement with the dam inspections. He went on to discuss the sill at Dam Site #4 which is a precaution for water going over the spillway. Mr. Simmons stated that the D.E.P. was pleased that it was completed before the hurricane.

Mr. Simmons further stated that the Sparta Shell Station has submitted an application to revise the location at the intersection of 181 and 517 to include a 711 Store. He explained that the existing Shell will come out and there will be a 711 behind it. The pumps, as well as the entrance and exit will be moved over. He expressed concern about the transmission lines that go under the gas pumps. At the November meeting he mentioned his suggestion to go out and do test holes where the new ones would go, and there are conflicts. A proposal has been made to lay extra mains to go around the gas pumps. He continued by saying that the Zoning Board denied the

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request and many were shocked. The County expressed concerns because they wanted a crosswalk on 517 so people would have a safe way to cross. With this in mind, they will approach the Board again.

Mr. Simmons began another discussion about the request of the owners of the Laundromat on Woodside Avenue to dig a well. Mr. Baldwin explained that he was approached by the owner about the well and he consulted Mr. Simmons who consulted the Board of Health as well as the D.E.P. There was further discussion about cross contamination of city water supplemented by well water, and the excessive permits and inspections which would be required. Because the Town has spent millions on an adequate water system that to date sufficiently provides for all of the Laundromats in Town, there would be no reason to dig a well. Chairman Lawler expressed concerns about the surrounding areas near the Laundromat that have had contaminated soil in the past and have the potential to contaminate a well in the area. Chairman Lawler requested that Mrs. Shackleton generate a memorandum to the Town Manager as well as the Council expressing the concerns of the Board. Other brief discussions took place regarding the history of the limited number of existing wells in the Town.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton