

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
June 18, 2013

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on June 18, 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: Ms. Unhoch, Mr. Pham, Mr. Vrahnos and Chairman Lawler. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water/Sewer Supervisor, and Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, were also in attendance. Mrs. Millikin and Mrs. Shackleton were excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to approval of the minutes from the March 19, 2013 meeting. Ms. Unhoch abstained as she was not present at the last meeting. Mr. Lawler requested one change before making a motion to accept the amended minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The amended minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first order of business was for Brian Debroux at 41 Kory Road who was requesting waiver of sewer charges based on the history of the property when Eugene Tschekunov owned it prior and had not paid sewer charges. Mr. Debroux is planning to hook up to the sewer but did not feel he should pay sewer charges for the two quarters that he has owned the property. After a brief discussion, Mr. Lawler motioned to waive sewer charges and penalties for the first and second quarters of 2013. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos and unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

The second order of business was for Fred Judge of 40-46 Orchard Street. Mr. Judge was requesting a waiver of sewer charges for an estimated 10,000 gallons due to a water leak. It was established that the excess water did not go through the sewer and Ms. Unhoch made a motion to accept the request. It was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos and unanimously accepted with an "aye" vote.

Regarding old business, Mr. Simmons discussed Mr. Martorana's previously-tabled application to build townhouses on Sparta Avenue. Mr. Simmons stated that it was approved by the Planning Board and information was submitted to the DEP. The total calculated usage is estimated to be 11,610 gallons per day. The Board stated that a meter pit would have to be installed for common areas, and water charges would have to be paid for same. Mr. Simmons stated that Debra Millikin will incorporate into the developer's agreement that payment for Water/Sewer tap will be paid up front. Furthermore, the Town will not sign the DEP application until the developer's agreement is completed.

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Mr. Simmons went on to say that when the Town does the taps, it should start on the side of Sparta Avenue with the D.M.V. and continue to the other side, making a loop. The board discussed the importance of a loop. Mr. Simmons displayed a plan with a temporary cul de sac with a total of three fire hydrants.

It was requested that a memo be drafted to the Town Council from the Board stating that the entire loop of the water lines be completed in Phase I, and also that a common water meter pit be installed for watering the common areas. Mr. Martorana still has to submit a package to the DEP and apply to the Bureau of Safe Drinking water for a three-month period of July, August, and September, so it will not be completed until 2014.

Regarding the water filtration plant, Mr. Baldwin reported that there is plenty of water and the level is good. The solar project has been shut down pending litigation, after running for a month, and the company claimed it was a test. Mr. Baldwin reported that the solar program is still working at the Public Works facility.

Mr. Simmons reported that four bids were made on the Howard Street water main project and the bid was awarded to HD Water Works which is a subsidiary of Home Depot.

Mr. Simmons passed out a summary of water usage for Morris Lake going back to 2007 and reported that when the valve was shut off in Fox Hollow Lake, the usage decreased. Mr. Simmons went on to report that it is difficult to lift pipe out and align the joints. He summarized the possible options regarding the approach to fix the leak and which main to follow. Ultimately, they will bring the pipe out in sections, float it out on to the lake, fuse each section together and when it is all in place they will remove the buoyancy devices and sink it down. The main will not be buried like the existing main. Chairman Lawler is concerned about the layout of the bottom of the lake. Mr. Simmons stated that they are following the route of the existing main. He referenced a flyer with the history of the main and asked that copy of same be passed out at the next meeting.

Mr. Simmons went on to discuss a meeting with the DEP regarding increased water allocation requests. Mr. Baldwin inquired as to why increased water is being requested. Mr. Simmons explained that it may be necessary for redevelopment. A brief discussion continued regarding water allocation.

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There being no other business to discuss, Chairman Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Pham. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton