

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
November 19, 2013

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on November 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: Ms. Unhoch, Mr. Pham, and Chairman Lawler. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water/Sewer Supervisor, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, 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 September 17, 2013 meeting. Ms. Unhoch motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first order of business was for Mr. and Mrs. Edwards of 85 Ryerson Avenue, who were requesting waiver of the 3rd quarter penalty due to a post office inconsistency. Chairman Lawler stated that the Board had encountered the same situation in the past. Ms. Unhoch agreed. Mr. Lawler motioned to deny the request in order to be consistent with similar prior requests. Mr. Vrahnos seconded the motion and it was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Baldwin about the water treatment plant, and Mr. Baldwin stated that everything is running smoothly but the lake is down about 28 inches. Chairman Lawler then asked if everyone was aware of the water restriction currently in place. The Board members affirmatively replied.

Mr. Lawler went on to explain that he happened to be home one day and observed a contractor doing weed control in the sewer. Mr. Baldwin explained that he budgets \$7500 a year for weed and root control to prevent blockage in the sewers and it is guaranteed for three years. Mr. Lawler stated that he wanted to make sure the Board was aware of lengths taken to maintain the sewers in Town.

Getting back to the lake level, Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Baldwin how far the lake needs to be down before it becomes a cause for worry. Mr. Baldwin stated that there really would never be a cause for worry. Mr. Vrahnos inquired as to whether we are saving water and Mr. Simmons stated that had the Water Department not detected the leak in Fox Hollow, we would be down two feet. Mr. Lawler clarified that being 20 inches below was the benchmark for putting water restrictions in place. Further discussion took place about how quickly usage accumulates from even a minor leak.

Mr. Simmons gave the engineer's report, stating that the Water Department has finished the Howard Street water main project from Diller Avenue to Oak Street. Mr. Baldwin stated that it has all been paved.

Mr. Simmons went on to say that the water allocation increase has been submitted to the DEP for review. The request was for an increase of 1 – 1.5 million gallons. Glen Lake has

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been lowered so that the bottom of the Morris Lake dam is exposed. Mr. Simmons explained that they are going back and forth with modified easements and are almost done. This is good for the increased water allocation permit.

Chairman Lawler asked if Glen Lake was natural and Mr. Simmons replied that he didn't believe it was. A discussion then took place about the history of the first main into Newton. The discussion moved forward to the year 2000 when the Water Filtration Plant was built, and continued to the current issue with the leak repair. Mr. Simmons stated that they are not going to proceed until all the easements are worked out. A further discussion took place about the method for laying the pipe.

Mr. Simmons went on to say that the Town's unaccounted for water is down to 11%. Five years ago it was up to 30% but with the fine work of the Water Department's leak detection, the numbers have greatly decreased.

There being no other business to discuss, Chairman Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton