

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
February 18, 2014

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on February 18, 2014, 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 Supervisor, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, were also in attendance. Ms. Unhoch was excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to approval of the minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting. Chairman Lawler motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first order of new business was for approval of the meeting dates for 2014. Chairman Lawler motioned to approve the meeting dates and Mr. Pham seconded. The dates were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first request from a utility customer was from Rudy Delvecchio of 80 Madison Street. Mr. Delvecchio was requesting credit for sewer charges accrued while he was renovating and had only the hose bib hooked up. All proper permits were obtained and the water is currently fully hooked up. Chairman Lawler motioned to credit Mr. Delvecchio \$58.49 for the sewer charges and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The request was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The next request was for Mary Louise Hutchison of 66 High Street who was requesting adjustment of her elevated 4th quarter bill. Ms. Hutchison claimed that there were no changes at the location, and after she submitted her appeal, a technician took a reading and ascertained that her water usage was back to normal. After a brief discussion about Ms. Hutchison's usage, Mr. Pham motioned to approve a one-time credit for the usage that put her over the minimum. Chairman Lawler seconded and the request was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The final request was for John Ford of 55 Trinity Street who was requesting an adjustment for excessive usage which was detected when the meter was pulled after a fire. Dr. Ford was unclear as to the reason for the excessive usage, as portions of the building had been vacant prior to the fire. Chairman Lawler said that because the reading indicated that the water indeed went through the meter, he should be responsible for the charges. Chairman Lawler further added that Dr. Ford can request to have the meter tested if he wishes to do so. He then motioned to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The request was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Baldwin about the water plant and he stated that the lake is down 17 inches, but will be fine once the snow melts. Mr. Baldwin went on to say that

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everything is running smoothly despite the cold. Chairman Lawler then asked if the cold is affecting the equipment. Mr. Baldwin stated that it is not.

Mr. Simmons gave the engineer's report, stating that after several months there was a meeting about Fox Hollow. There was concern because the lake is shallow, which could create a problem for boats with motors. He said that the diving company plans to sink pipe to the bottom using a water jet to blow the soil and undermine the pipe. If the pipe is welded together, it floats. However if weight is put on it and the pipe is filled, it will sink. Mr. Vrahnos asked about relocation of the frogs and fish. Mr. Simmons replied that with the plan that has been set forth, there is no need for relocation of the frogs and fish. Chairman Lawler expressed concern about the undermining of the pipe and whether it will stay. Mr. Simmons stated that a field crew went out in a boat to the location and put a rod down to see how far down into the soil they could go. They were not able to go far, but plan to go out with a probe to see exactly how far it goes down. The plan is to not connect right away, but let it settle and then put concrete. Chairman Lawler inquired about the compression rate and Mr. Simmons stated that because it is not a straight line, there will be room to work. Mr. Vrahnos asked about the cost of the project and Mr. Simmons informed him that the price increased due to the jets. Mr. Vrahnos asked when the project will be done and Mr. Simmons told him 2017. Mr. Simmons went on to discuss the history of easements on the property.

Regarding Morris/Glen Lake, Mr. Simmons explained that the D.E.P. granted approval for placement of the valve. The flange is going to be inspected and measured so when the gate valve is needed, they will be able to order it. After that, they will go down and excavate to the 12-inch line and put a plug. There will be a plug on the downstream so when grout is put in, it will go through. Mr. Baldwin asked why they don't put the valve in now and Mr. Simmons stated that they are unaware of the duration between phases. Mr. Baldwin stated that if the lake is empty, there will be no need for divers. Mr. Simmons said that he will look into it and ascertain if Glen Lake is completely empty.

Mr. Simmons then addressed the subdivision on Madison Street. There are two houses on one lot and a dye test indicated that there is a common line. The surveyor will need to set up an easement stating that if a repair is needed in the common area, costs will be split between the two parties.

There being no other business to discuss, Chairman Lawler made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton