

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
May 20, 2014

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on May 20, 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, Ms. Unhoch and Chairman Lawler. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Ervin Lasso, Water/Sewer Foreman, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, were also in attendance. Mr. Baldwin was excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and moved to approval of the minutes from the March 18, 2014 meeting as well as the March 25, 2014 special meeting. Chairman Lawler asked Mrs. Shackleton if the suggested amendment was added to the March 25, 2014 meeting and Mrs. Shackleton stated that she needed clarification on same. A brief discussion took place and the minutes from the March 25, 2014 meeting were tabled, pending amendment.

Chairman Lawler then moved to the first order of new business which was for Northern NJ Endoscopy, located at 18 Church Street, requesting adjustment of their 4th quarter 2013 bill. Mrs. Shackleton explained the details of a letter written by Mr. Copcutt, the property manager. Mr. Vrahnos asked if air in the line could affect the meter. Mr. Lasso stated that there were no breaks during that time although if there were, there was a small chance it could happen. Chairman Lawler asked if it would be possible for the meter to spin backwards during a loss of pressure and Mr. Lasso stated that it could. Chairman Lawler asked if there were two units in the building and Mr. Lasso stated that he believed there were more than two units because there are three floors. Chairman Lawler pointed out that there was a drastic increase in usage from 2011 to 2012 and Mr. Lasso stated that they were renovating at that time. Chairman Lawler stated that the usage has been slowly increasing since that time. Mr. Lasso stated that the meter is relatively new, and that there is a six-inch line because of the sprinklers in the Endoscopy unit. Chairman Lawler asked if the other meter fed the remaining tenants and Mr. Lasso stated that it did. Chairman Lawler stated that they could not assume that the meter was incorrect. Mr. Pham motioned to deny the request and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The motion was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

The next order of business was for 15 Woodridge Court for waiver of delinquent penalty on a house that was closing. The attorney sent an email on March 7, 2014 requesting outstanding figures for the property because it would be closing at the end of the month. The charges were paid on April 2, 2014, causing a delinquency which is being disputed. Chairman Lawler clarified that an email was sent with outstanding charges on March 7, 2014, yet the attorney still paid it late. Mr. Lasso stated that if the charges remain, they will be the responsibility of the purchaser. He further stated that he feels badly for the purchaser because of all the

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damage caused by a water leak prior to closing. Chairman Lawler suggested that the purchasers seek restitution from the attorney. Mr. Vrahnos motioned to deny the request and it was seconded by Mr. Pham. The motion was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Lasso how the water filtration was operating and Mr. Lasso said that everything is fine. Chairman Lawler then asked about the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Mr. Lasso stated that the new climber is working great. He stated that it has smaller fingers which are an improvement. Chairman Lawler asked if there are issues with non-deteriorating cleaning utensils. Mr. Lasso stated that it is not a big problem. Chairman Lawler asked if the eagles were back and Mr. Lasso said that the parents are back but there are no babies at this time. Chairman Lawler asked about the spillway and Mr. Lasso said that it is three inches above the spillway. Mr. Vrahnos asked if the restriction had been lifted and Mr. Lasso said it was lifted.

In his engineers report, Mr. Simmons stated that the Glen Lake Association finished work on the dam. He explained that the easements have been abandoned regarding the 12-inch line and they have grouted under their dam. Water Wear Diving won the bid for the blowout. They began taking pictures and videos for analysis. Mr. Simmons explained that phase one is discovery and now that the depth is known, phase two can go out for bid. He went on to say that the butterfly valve in the gatehouse is going to be replaced in order to establish a better seal. He said that it will be safer if they need to lower the lake.

Mr. Simmons stated that they were about to do flow testing on the hydrants in Drake Manor at the request of Andover Township. Mr. Vrahnos asked if the hydrants in Drake Manor were color coded and Mr. Lasso stated that they were not. Mr. Lasso also said that a hydrant in Andover which did not belong to Newton was broken, and it had never been bagged. He said that was the reason they requested the flow test. He said Andover planned to paint non-working hydrants black instead of bagging them. Mr. Lasso thought this was a good idea.

Mr. Simmons said that forms were submitted for the Martorana transfer Development Study. He said that the DEP uses five years of data and went on to explain that it causes one year of bad data to stay with the Town for five years. Ms. Unhoch asked if there will be a water allocation for the proposed building across from the Theater. Mr. Simmons explained the parameters required for water allocation and said that he was not sure if that building would meet the criteria. He went on to explain that once allocation is calculated, the water is reserved until completion of the project. If the project goes uncompleted, the water cannot be repurposed. He stressed the importance of receiving payment up front to increase the likelihood of job completion.

Mr. Simmons completed his report by saying that work is still pending on Fox Hollow and that bog turtles are present there, as well as an Indiana bat. The bat is causing time constraints

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on the project. There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Lawler motioned to close to meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton