

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
October 21, 2014

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on October 21, 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: Ms. Unhoch, Mr. Vrahnos, and Chairman Lawler. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Joseph Carr, Senior Water/Sewer repair, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, were also in attendance.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and moved to approval of the minutes from the July 15, 2014 meeting. Chairman Lawler motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The minutes were approved with an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler then moved to the first order of new business which was for George Sernack of 181 Spring Street who was requesting a waiver of delinquent charges due to an address discrepancy on his second and third quarter bills. After a brief discussion regarding the software error that caused the address discrepancy, Ms. Unhoch motioned to approve the request and it was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The request was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The next order of new business was for Daniel Varghese of 9 Trenton Place for waiver of his delinquent penalty because he did not receive the second quarter bill in June 2014. Mrs. Shackleton informed the Board that his bill was sent out from the Sparta Post Office along with all of the second quarter bills. Mr. Vrahnos motioned to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The request was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The final order of new business was for George Wink of 27 Douma Drive for waiver of his delinquent penalty because he did not receive the third quarter bill in September 2014. Mrs. Shackleton informed the Board that his bill was sent out from the Sparta Post Office along with all of the third quarter bills. Ms. Unhoch motioned to approve the request and it was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The request was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler then asked Mr. Carr about the water filtration plant and he responded that Morris Lake was 29 inches below the spillway but other than that, everything was running smoothly. Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Carr about the Wastewater Treatment Plant and he stated that they are going out for bid for a roof as well as drives for primary sludge tanks. Mr. Carr went on to explain the tanks are from the 1940's and the Town is also going to get panels to cover them so that the snow will not sit on top, putting unnecessary weight on the tanks.

Mr. Simmons then gave the engineer's report. He stated that the Moose Lodge paid fees and installed dry taps. It was ascertained that fire lines were not needed. The Moose Lodge would be going before the Planning Board the following evening for final site-plan approval. Mr. Simmons stated that the prior Moose Lodge building has been removed. He went on to explain that the sanitary sewer line off of Diller Avenue that tied into it was not as deep as they thought,

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so they had to revise and pick up the first floor of the proposed unemployment building. The raising of the ground floor necessitated installation of a handicap ramp.

Mr. Simmons went on to speak about water allocation and said that they will meet next week to discuss same. Mr. Simmons stated that below a certain level of Morris Lake, the water is considered storage water. Upon investigation of old records, Mr. Simmons learned that there used to be two pump stations. There was a pump behind the old Exxon Station and when turned on, water was increased to the Town when the Gatehouse pump was also turned on. The pump behind the Exxon was removed when the Route 517 bypass was built. Mr. Simmons continued on to say that if we needed to, we could put a pump in to access that lower water.

Mr. Simmons said that the Glen Lake blow off is scheduled for next week. The divers will be back to attach fittings and cap the pipe by the Glen Lake Dam. They will put a fitting on the end going to the gatehouse. If a coupling is used in the future, the fitting can be reused.

Mr. Simmons reported that they are working on easements for the DEP permit for Fox Hollow. Also, there was recently a meeting regarding the demolition of the Shell Station and construction of the 711 in Sparta. More drawings are needed and the work is planned for next fall, but Mr. Simmons is not sure if it will take place at that time. Mr. Vrahnos stated that there are pipes in front of the gas station that are close to the pumps and a brief discussion took place about same.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Lawler motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton