

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
October 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on October 20, 2015 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. Lockwood, Mr. Vrahnos, and Chairman Lawler. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Ervin Lasso, Water Foreman, 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 August 25, 2015 meeting. Mr. Lockwood motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The minutes were unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler then moved to the first order of new business which was for Benjamin Polesir of 3 Condit Street who was requesting waiver of the \$50 shutoff fee because the bills were being sent to the premises and he does not reside there. After a brief explanation that he was shut off for nonpayment, Chairman Lawler motioned to deny the request, as ordinance states that a shut off fee is charged when being shut off for nonpayment. Mr. Vrahnos seconded the motion and it was unanimously denied with an "aye" vote.

The second order of business was for April Kosmich of 85 Carriage Lane who was requesting waiver of a delinquent penalty because a restraining order was issued against her boyfriend on October 1, 2015. Since they were unable to locate him and serve the restraining order, the police suggested she not stay at the residence. Since the bill was mailed September 1, 2015 and due September 30, 2015, the Board felt that the restraining order had no bearing on the payment being delinquent. Mr. Vrahnos motioned to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Lockwood. The motion was unanimously denied with an "aye" vote.

The third order of business was for John Kelly of 205 Main Street who was requesting waiver of a delinquent penalty because he was waiting for the Board to have a quorum to rule on his previous request waiving sewer charges due to a broken pipe. After a brief discussion regarding the months that the Board did not have a quorum, Chairman Lawler stated that it would be fair to approve the request. Mr. Lockwood motioned to approve the request and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The motion was unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

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Prior to moving on to Old Business, Chairman Lawler requested that if McGuire Realty had not yet repaired the broken window, a letter be sent requesting that either the window be repaired, or have the water shut off and the meter pulled so that it does not freeze as it had done last winter. A brief discussion occurred regarding the matter and Mrs. Shackleton stated that she would look into addressing the matter.

Chairman Lawler then asked Mr. Lasso how the plants were running and Mr. Lasso stated that both plants were running well. He stated that they are waiting for flashing for the new roof. Mr. Lasso went on to report that there have been grease issues near Applebee's and a discussion regarding same took place. Chairman Lawler suggested the matter be tabled until the next meeting when Mr. Simmons provides plans of the sewer lines. Mr. Vrahnos asked how low Morris Lake is currently and Mr. Simmons stated that it is 32 inches below the spillway. He reported that Mr. Smalley said that it was as low as three feet at one time years ago.

In his engineers report, Mr. Simmons stated that all snowfall data was sent to the D.E.P. for the allocation increase. Seems that the estimated totals were low which is advantageous and the D.E.P. is considering the increase request.

Regarding the old Shell Station in Sparta, the Gas Station is open but the 7-11 Store is still underway. They needed a revised as built. He stated that they have to tweak a few things before filing. They also have to get a maintenance bond. He went on to report that Benny from his office inspected the Morris Lake Dam with respect to the D.E.P. wetland permit for Fox Hollow. On each shoreline, a certain number of trees need to come down. The ten-inch main was installed so long ago that there are so many trees. They have to come down after October 1<sup>st</sup> when the bats are not present, and the main needs to be done prior to June 1<sup>st</sup>, creating a limited window of time. He stated that they have to mark each tree that needs to come out, and there is a condition to replant trees and put a deed restriction. The new trees have to be maintained for a period of at least three years. A deed restriction can only be placed by the owner, so the Town asked to plant the trees at Morris Lake. Morris Lake is too far away, so it was agreed that the trees will be planted where the pipe is set to lay until it is put in the Lake.

Chairman Lawler stated that the D.E.P. should understand the importance of keeping the area open and not having trees. He asked if the trees would impede

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parking. Mr. Simmons thinks that they were planning to plant trees there anyway. He further explained that the D.E.P. has general permits and custom permits. When the water treatment plant was built, it was a custom permit. There were two little eyebrows of wetlands on the peninsula where it was built, so an explanation of why the plant had to go there was needed. Mr. Lockwood asked if after the three-year period with the trees, our obligation is complete and Mr. Simmons answered affirmatively. He added that they do allow for death of a small percentage. Mr. Vrahnos asked if the ground has to be put back the way it was after we remove the pipe. Mr. Simmons replied that the ground will not be compromised much and then the trees will be planted.

Mr. Simmons moved on to discuss the Q6 bridge in Sparta and commended the Water Department on their mark out of same. He stated that maps will be drawn so the consultant who repairs the bridge will have adequate information. Mr. Vrahnos asked when the repairs will take place and Mr. Simmons said it will be in 2016 or 2017.

Chairman Lawler said that he saw a lot of catch basins being repaired. Mr. Lasso stated that it was likely due to the bad winter more than because of the construction.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton