

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
June 19, 2018

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on June 19, 2018 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: Chairman Lawler, Mr. Vrahnos and Mr. Carchia. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, and Mrs. Teresa Oswin, were also present.

Chairman Lawler opened the meeting and began with approval of the April 21, 2018 minutes. Mr. Vrahnos motioned to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Carchia. They were unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

The first order of new business was for Jason Guiliano of 14 Liberty Street, contesting high water usage that he claims is from a service leak that the Town repaired. Chairman Lawler asked Mr. Simmons if a meter can circulate without water running through. Mr. Simmons stated that sometimes sediment can block it, but the only reverse he ever heard was from a fire. Mr. Carchia asked if the meter was tested. Chairman Lawler suggested that they test the meter and put the matter to rest. Mr. Vrahnos asked who will absorb the charges for the test. He added that six to eight soccer players use a lot of water and take a lot of showers. A discussion ensued on the plumber's report. Mr. Vrahnos said to take the meter out and test if. If it tests accurately, they will pay and if it tests inaccurately, Town will pay. If bill is not paid, collection enforcement will be in place. Chairman Lawler made a motion for this and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The motion was unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

The second order of business was for Nicolle Philhower of 94 Sparta Avenue who was requesting waiver of excess sewer charges due to a leaking outside faucet. Since the water did not go through the sewer, Mr. Vrahnos motioned to approve the request and Mr. Carchia seconded. The motion was unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

The third order of business was for Jean Pierson of 173 Spring Street who was requesting waiver of sewer charges due to a leak which went on for several quarters before being detected. Chairman Lawler motioned to approve the

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request and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The motion was unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

Under old business, Chairman Lawler asked for a discussion about Brookside Urban Renewal at 33 Mill Street. The owner had requested waiver of his delinquent penalty for a bill that the post office failed to deliver. He stated that the Town had an incorrect zip code on the bill. Mrs. Shackleton stated that the bill goes to an address in Newark and that Newark has multiple zip codes. She also stated that there was no zip code listed on the deed, and the bills have always been paid on time despite the questionable zip code. Chairman Lawler thanked Mrs. Shackleton on the record for her due diligence and motioned to deny the request. Mr. Vrahnos seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

Regarding the Water Plant and Sewer Treatment Plant, Mr. Carr was not present but relayed that Morris Lake is down two inches and everything else at the water and wastewater plant is in order.

In his engineer report, Mr. Simmons stated dam #2 on Swartswood Road was excavated and a retaining wall was built. Some areas were raised and Mr. Simmons will bring the asbuilt to the next meeting. Work was done on the Morris Lake boat house and we were on Sparta water for a brief time while they pumped the gate house and took measurements. Mr. Simmons will bring photos to the next meeting. It is tight, but a pump will fit. A brief discussion ensued on this topic. Mr. Vrahnos commended Dave and his staff for the smart move in pumping it out and taking a look to determine what had to be done. Mr. Carchia asked if we had an agreement with Sparta for going on their water. Mr. Simmons explained that when interconnect was done in August of 2000, a reciprocating deal was made. Regarding the water allocation increase, Mr. Simmons gave an overview of the work that was done. He will keep the Board posted on the results. He continued on stating that they are still negotiating costs, and the county needs to establish escrow. Mr. Simmons and Mr. Carr met with the county engineer to

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relocate the bridge. Regarding the Morris Lake dam, a valve had blown off and the town is looking to see if there are funds for repair. The Atlantic Ambulance project is still ongoing, and there are more lead and copper tests being done in Town. The Sparta zoning board has not yet approved Wawa, and he will keep us posted. Mr. Simmons continued on to report the repairs needed in the area of Sparta Glenn. The watermain is encased in concrete, concrete is exposed, and that has to be rectified. He stated that they are waiting for the brook to go down before testing. The NJDEP okayed taking dead trees in conservation easement. There being no more business to discuss, Chairman Lawler motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton