

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
February 17, 2009

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on February 17, 2009 at 7:30pm at the Newton Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street, Newton. Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Mr. Baldini, Mr. Caffrey, Mrs. Unhoch, and Mr. Lawler. Mr. Vrahnos called ahead to be excused. Mr. William Grennille, Utility Superintendent, and Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager were also in attendance.

Mr. Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved on to the approval of minutes from the January 17, 2009 meeting. Mr. Baldini made a motion to approve the January 17, 2009 minutes and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to New Business. First request was from Andrew Mahoski, requesting an adjustment in his bill due to incorrect meter numbers. There was no copy of the account with the application. Mr. Baldini stated there could be a leak. Mrs. Millikin stated she would obtain the account history for the next meeting. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to table this request and was seconded by Mrs. Unhoch. The application was tabled by a unanimous "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business. The first item was Richard and Irene Kerr. The information was provided and the Board felt it was not a valid request. Mr. Baldini made a motion to deny the application and was seconded by Mr. Unhoch. The Board unanimously approved the denial by an "aye".

The second item was for Project Self Sufficiency. Mr. Grennille provided some better background on this application. The water was shut off on June 22, 2006. On September 28, 2006 it appears water was turned back on. There is no record of this ever happening. There was a \$40.00 fee charged for the turn off. Mr. Grennille explained there are two options. The first one is to charge PSS construction water for 2 years which would be roughly \$100 per quarter. The second option would be to charge \$75.00 per the three quarters times the amount over the \$75.00 charge. Mr. Grennille recommended the charging of

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construction water. Mr. Lawler stated if it was 1,800 gallons a month for 36 months this potential could have been a leak. Discussion ensued. The Board felt from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2006 to the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2008 should be charged as construction water. Everything else will be metered and payable to water and sewer. Mr. Baldini stated he had an issue with no sewer being charged. Mr. Lawler made a motion to approve the request with construction water being charged and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. The PSS matter was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The final item under Old Business William Moran, MMH BT, LLC. Requesting a reduction in the sewer charge. Mr. Grennille explained the letter and information received from MMH. This occurred after the watermain work was completed. Mr. Baldini felt since there was a leak they should have to pay. Mrs. Unhoch stated it would be a reduction of \$400.00. Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to approve the reduction and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini – no, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Mr. Lawler – yes.

Water Filtration Plan Update Mr. Grennille stated operations are normal. The total gallons lately coming in to Town have been 850,000 per day, which is a reduction. This is evidence that leak detection is working.

Mr. Grennille discussed the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The limits were met for January. Trickling filter was off in the middle of January due to the extreme cold temperatures. The filter was turned back on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Still running higher on ammonia. A Notice of Violation was received for the June ammonia limits which is a \$1,000 fine. Discussion ensued on the Chronic Toxity test that occurs every quarter.

Discussion ensued regarding the shut off list. Mrs. Millikin indicated these people listed are 90 days over due on payment and letters have been sent advising if no payment is received they will be shut off. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Mrs. Millikin indicated that she had some updates to Mr. Baldini's questions raised at

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the last meeting. Pesticide on lawn- there is no specific ordinance in place at this time. Mr. Baldini questioned how this is enforced. Mr. Lawler suggested maybe sending out information to the public that a licensed person be utilized to place pesticides on lawns. Sewer charges - Mrs. Millikin indicated that sewer charges are not in place at this time for those that do not have sewer. This would have to be recommended by the Board to the Town Council. Mrs. Millikin indicated she could get a list of the sprinkler systems in Town who only pay water. Recycling of water has been put in place in all redevelopment plans and will be addressed with the revised zoning ordinance. Shut-off list was received. Mrs. Millikin provided a list of the salary breakdown in the budget. She indicated that this is decided by the CFO and Town Manager. She explained what each person's responsibility is to the Utility. Discussion ensued on this matter. Mr. Baldini would like the rates to decrease. Mrs. Millikin indicated this would not occur due to the fact that we need to build up some funds in order to deal with any new regulations that might come from the Exit Ramp study for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

There being no other business to discuss and upon motion of Mr. Lawler and seconded by Mrs. Unhoch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Debra J. Millikin  
Deputy Town Manager  
Utility Board Secretary