

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
August 26, 2009

The special meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on August 26, 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. Paul Baldwin, Water Foreman, Ms. Dawn Babcock, CFO, Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr., 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 July 21, 2009 meeting. Mr. Simmons stated he had a correction on page 3 regarding the Town Square Gardens discussion. He indicated that Town Square Gardens needed more information supplied by the Town to NJDEP for clarification. Upon NJDEP review of the submitted information Town Square Gardens will be able to make application. There being no other issues Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Chairman Lawler. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to New Business under request for utility customers. Due to the fact that two customers were present Chairman Lawler moved the agenda around. The first application was for Vegas Holdings, LLC. Requesting reduction of charges to only be the minimum for past 2 quarters. Mr. John Vegas was present. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the bill has been estimated due to the fact that there has been no access to the building. Mr. Vegas stated a final reading was never done when the tenants had left the restaurant. He requested the Board to consider going between the 4,000 gallon minimum. Mr. Baldwin indicated final readings are only done when a change of ownership. There is no way to attach a meter to the outside of the structure. Mr. Baldini indicated that the other bills have been paid. Mr. Baldwin did indicate that when readings are being done the water department calls Mr. Vegas and if he is available lets them in to do a reading. Mrs. Babcock suggested usage should be \$75.00 for the three quarters. Chairman Lawler indicated that there was a 0 reading for 2/08, 4/08, and 1/09 this should be recalculated to minimum usage of \$75.00 balance due. Chairman Lawler made a motion to recalculate minimum payment to \$75.00 per three quarters and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini –yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved Douglas and Audrey McGuire application under Old

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Business next. Mr. & Mrs. McGuire were present. Mr. Baldwin stated there is no valve on the front of the meter. Chairman Lawler stated the item was tabled due to needing information from water personnel and confirmation that the meter was accurate. Mrs. Babcock obtained the print out from the August reading. It indicated so far 11,000 gallons were used in the quarter. Mr. Baldwin indicated by the time the readings were completed it would be roughly 17,000 gallons. Mr. McGuire indicated this is about the normal usage. Mr. McGuire indicated that over the past six years this amount of water has never been used. Mrs. McGuire indicated that the meter passed the test and questioned if there could be a mechanical failure in the meter. Chairman Lawler indicated the meter would slow down not speed up. Discussion ensued. Mr. Caffrey suggested averaging the normal usage and base the bill on that number and check billing for the next couple of quarters and to waive the penalty. Mrs. Babcock indicated that \$200.00 had already been paid by the McGuires. After a quick calculation Mrs. Babcock indicated the bill would be about \$234.00 without the penalty. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to average the usage and waive the penalty and was seconded by Mrs. Unhoch. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes. Mr. Baldini abstained from the application.

Chairman Lawler went back to New Business. The next application was for Peter Demartini. Requesting waiver of penalty \$9.45. Chairman Lawler made a motion to deny the request of waiving the penalty and was seconded by Mr. Baldini. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini –yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

The next application was for Tim & Chrissie Kochanski. Requesting waiver of penalty of \$55.45. Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Lawler. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

Next application was for John & Karen Loughran. Requesting waiver of penalty of \$33.00. Chairman Lawler made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business on the agenda. Mr. Millikin questioned what the Board wanted her to do with Mr. Franchino's information on the loan carrier. They wanted some contact made to find out the company that may of turned the water off.

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Chairman Lawler questioned if there was a health issue since he is living on the property without water. Mrs. Millikin indicated that the Board of Health is contacted with the address of those properties which water is turned off.

Chairman Lawler moved to the next item on the agenda Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons updated the Board that Wachovia, Walgreens and Dunkin Donuts are progressing. Dunkin is looking for a partial final in October and the water and sewer have been almost all installed. The only item left is testing of the lines.

Mr. Simmons indicated that the Morris Lake Dam 2009 inspection was due. He indicated he had spoken to Dam Safety, Sarah Hatali on the inspection schedule and since a lot of work has already been done that the formal inspection is being put off till 2016. Dam work will not be taking place in August of 2010 due to the eagle restriction.

Mr. Simmons indicated he is completing plans for and 8" sewer line to be placed in the alleyway across the street to replace a 4" orangeburg line and new manholes. Mr. Simmons indicated that was all the update he had for the Board.

Mrs. Babcock questioned if she could discuss the current bills. The billings have an account number on them and due to the fact that this is privacy issue something has to be changed. A new law was being approved that accounts have to be safe guarded. Chairman Lawler suggested going electronic. Mrs. Millikin indicated not everyone has computers. Chairman Lawler indicated there would be a cost benefit. Mr. Baldini suggested that Mrs. Babcock reach out to the County and question what they do. Mr. Simmons stated what about xxx out the account number.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Lawler and seconded by Mrs. Unhoch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Debra J. Millikin