

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
September 15, 2009

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on September 15, 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, Mr. Vrahnos and Mr. Lawler. 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 to the approval of minutes from the August 26, 2009 meeting. There being no issues Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to New Business under request for utility customers. First application was Richard Dayermanjian requesting a reduction of sewer charges. Mrs. Millikin indicated the leak was in the bleeder valve. The bill has been paid and the customer is requesting a credit on the sewer portion. Mr. Baldini indicated that he feels all water ends in the sewer and would not approve the request. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vrahnos discussed the fact that the Newton Country Club had to pay for sewer even though the issue was in the sprinkler pit. Mr. Vrahnos feels that the applicant should pay for the sewer portion. Mrs. Babcock indicated the credit would be roughly \$65.00. Mr. Baldini made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Chairman Lawler who indicated if it was inside he would consider. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, Mr. Vrahnos – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved Shirley Dianella requesting a decrease of charges. Mrs. Dianella was looking for a \$75.00 credit for 3 quarters due to tenants. Mrs. Babcock indicated there was no usage. Chairman Lawler indicated that in the ordinance it states 0 to 4,000 gallons entitled to a charge of \$75.00 minimum. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mrs. Unhoch. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Baldini – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, Mr. Vrahnos – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to the final application on the agenda Brenda and William Steingall requesting decrease of charges. The Board questioned why there was a 0 charge. Mr. Baldwin indicated he went in and read the inside meter. Chairman Lawler indicated if a zero meter reading has happened three times in a row is this being addressed. Mr. Baldwin

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indicated that if a zero reading is done in one quarter then the water department immediately goes out and checks the reading again. If there is the same reading in the next quarter the hand held unit will buzz. Mrs. Babcock indicated that if last quarter the house is vacant we can place this information on the screen for the collector. Mr. Baldini made a motion to deny the request and seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mr. Baldini – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, Mr. Vrahnos – yes, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business on the agenda. Mrs. Millikin advised the Board that there was a watermain break on Main Street on 9/10/2009 and a boil water notice was issued. The Town was able to utilize the reverse 9-1-1 system to advise residents of the boil water order. The order was lifted on 9/12/2009. Mr. Baldwin indicated that there is a property on 12 New Hampshire Street that needs to fix their water line due to a leak. At this time the customer cannot afford to do the fix. Mrs. Millikin indicated she would contact legal to find out the Town's recourse on this matter. Mr. Baldini questioned what Mr. Russo is doing related to his questions previously asked. If he receives no response he will go to the Town Council.

Next Chairman Lawler moved to the Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons updated the Board that bids will be open on the sewer line project in the alleyway on September 24, 2009. The plans call for excavating the alley, placing a new sewer main in the alleyway and then repaving the alley. Mr. Simmons indicated he is still working on the water diversion permit with NJDEP. NJDEP focus right now is getting all the stimulus money awarded.

Mr. Simmons provided an update on the Wachovia, Dunkin Donuts, and Walgreens projects. Dunkin Donuts will not be making the October Planning Board Meeting and most likely will be in for the November Meeting. The watermain and has been placed in the ground the only item left to do is to tie into North Park Drive and then test the main.

The final item Mr. Simmons discussed was the Dr. Blackwell application going to the Planning Board for an addition and additional parking in the back of the parcel. He is not sure if a sprinkler will be required. Mr. Baldini questioned what work is being done on Rte. 517 in Sparta. Mr. Baldwin indicated it is gas main work and that the watermain has been marked out. Mr. Baldini questioned when the new Stop and Shop will be built. Mr. Simmons indicated he did not know.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Baldini and seconded

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by Mrs. Unhoch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Debra J. Millikin