

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
January 19, 2010

The meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on January 19, 2010 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, Mrs. Unhoch, and Mr. Lawler. Mr. Caffrey and 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, and Mrs. Amanda Tomasello were also in attendance.

Mr. Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to reorganization. Mrs. Millikin questioned if the Board wanted to wait until there was a full Board to act on the reorganization of the Board. The Board agreed to carry this to the February meeting.

Chairman Lawler moved to New Business under request for utility customers. The only application was for Jason McMahan and Kathleen Donatelli. Disputing high water bill and requesting waiver of the penalty. Mr. McMahan and Ms. Donatelli were present. Mr. McMahan stated they had received a letter from the Town and the water foreman reviewed our readings and replaced the meter on the outside. Mr. McMahan stated they did have a leaking toilet and had that fixed. Discussion ensued on the matter. Chairman Lawler questioned if the outside meter was bad or inside meter. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the outside meter needed to be replaced. Mr. Baldini suggested averaging the 4 quarters and then coming up with the amount owed. Discussion ensued. Mr. McMahan questioned why there was a discrepancy in the meters. Chairman Lawler indicated that the inside meter is the most accurate and the outside reader was replaced due to the discrepancy. Mr. Simmons indicated if you average the four quarters it would be about \$341.39. Chairman Lawler stated that the penalty would be waived. Mr. Baldwin suggested removing the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter minimums from the amount owed and credit to the account. Chairman Lawler made a motion to waive the penalty and credit the account for the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and provide Mr. McMahan and Ms. Donatelli with their bill.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business Water Filtration Plant. Mr. Baldwin stated there were a couple of leaks fixed this month. There was a 8" watermain break on Moran Street by the park. The Water Department replaced a 19' of the 8" watermain. There were no Sewer updates accept winter limits are being met.

Chairman Lawler moved to Town Engineer's report. Mr. Simmons stated that the

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Town appeared in front of the Sparta Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Morris Lake Dam right abutment. The Town received approval and indicated the project would not begin until August or September of 2010. The alley sewer project has been ongoing. The sewer main has been installed and paving will take place in the Spring. There were some modifications to the project due to what was found from the test holes.

Chairman Lawler asked if anyone had any other information. Mrs. Babcock indicated that she ran the close out for the year and there was a big improvement in the numbers. Mrs. Millikin advised everyone that budget hearings will be occurring on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Baldini and seconded by Mrs. Unhoch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Debra J. Millikin