

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
July 20, 2010

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on July 20, 2010 at 7:30 pm at the Newton Municipal Building, 39 Trinity Street, Newton. Chairman Lawler called the meeting to order and the following members were present: Mr. Caffrey, Mr. Pham, Mr. Vrahnos, Mrs. Unhoch, and Chairman Lawler. Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water & Sewer Supervisor, Mrs. Amanda Tomasello, Utility Collector, and Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager were also in attendance. Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. was excused.

Mrs. Millikin read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to the approval of minutes from the June 15, 2010 meeting. There being no issues Chairman Lawler made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to New Business under request for utility customers. First application was for Edrie Gould. Ms. Gould, her daughter and her son-in-law were present. They are disputing two large bills from the third and fourth quarter 2009. Paul explained that there was no leak, and in November 2009 the meter was exchanged and the meter reading was higher than the last billing when exchanged, proving that the meter readings were correct. The customer stated that after the meter was replaced the bills went down, proving that it was an issue with the meter. Discussion ensued on the matter. Chairman Lawler indicated that without proof of meter malfunction, the bill cannot be adjusted. The customer suggested that this was related to the construction of new pipes on their road. Mr. Baldwin stated that the construction was finished a year before the high bills. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to deny the request. Mr. Vrahnos suggests that the amounts billed are too high for a single person with no sewer charge. Mrs. Unhoch withdrew her motion to deny the request. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to adjust the bills based on the averages. Chairman Lawler made a motion to get the usage from the first quarter 2007 through third quarter 2010, figure out the average and make a

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decision at the August meeting. Mrs. Unhoch seconded this motion. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mr. Pham – yes, Mrs. Unhoch – yes, and Chairman Lawler - yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Anthony Intersimone requesting waiver of two quarterly minimum charges. His meter was stuck for two quarters and he was charged the minimum \$75.00. During the 3rd quarter he had his meter replaced and received a large bill for the water used for all three quarters. He was requesting \$150.00 credit. Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mr. Pham – yes, Mrs. Unhoch, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Lisa Flanagan requesting waiver of penalty fee. The penalty fee was \$29.09 and they have been on time with payment every time. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Chairman Lawler. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mr. Pham – yes, Mrs. Unhoch, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Steven Balzano requesting waiver of penalty fee. The penalty fee was \$34.72. Mrs. Unhoch made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mr. Pham – yes, Mrs. Unhoch, and Chairman Lawler – yes.

The final application on the agenda was for Roger Sharp requesting reduction of bill due to a leak. Mr. Baldwin explained that there was a leak on the property and Mr. Sharp hired a leak detection company to find it and also had it fixed. Chairman Lawler made a motion to reduce the sewer portion by 1/4 and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes, Mr. Caffrey – yes, Mr. Pham – yes, Mrs. Unhoch, and Chairman Lawler – yes. Chairman Lawler moved on to Old Business on the agenda. Mr. Baldwin indicated that the Water Filtration Plant and Waste Water Treatment Plant are

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running smoothly. Mr. Baldwin stated that they have replaced five hydrants and have one more to fix. During digging there was an old valve that blew. It was a clean fix once the water was out of the hole. The water was shut off into town and a reverse 911 call was made. It took the Water Department approximately eight hours to fix. The DEP did not require a boil water advisory. Six samples were taken the following day and everything was good. Mrs. Millikin indicated that the summer crew has been busy painting the hydrants based on the flow: Red – 500 or less, Orange – 500-1,000, Green – 1,000-1,500 and Blue – Over 1,500. Mrs. Millikin stated that the hydrant report should be available in the next 2-3 weeks.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons was not present, but Mrs. Millikin reported that everything was running smoothly.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Amanda Tomasello