

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
August 17, 2010

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on August 17, 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 and Chairman Lawler. Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water & Sewer Supervisor, Mrs. Amanda Tomasello, Utility Collector, Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. and Mrs. Debra Millikin, Deputy Town Manager were also in attendance. Mrs. Thea Unhoch was excused.

Mr. Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to the approval of minutes from the July 20, 2010 meeting. There being no issues Mr. 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. The first application on the agenda was for Judith Bergeron requesting waiver of penalty fee. The penalty fee was \$13.08. Mr. Lawler made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes and Mr. Pham – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Michael Carleton requesting waiver of penalty fee. The penalty fee was \$22.29. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Lawler. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes and Mr. Pham – yes.

The final application on the agenda was for Richard Brooks disputing a high 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter bill. Mrs. Tomasello explained that the meter started slowing down 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2009 and was not replaced until May 27, 2010, which is why the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2010 bill was high. Mr. Pham made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes and Mr. Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business on the agenda. The first item was for Edrie Gould. Ms. Gould and her son-in-law were present. They were also in attendance at the last meeting to dispute two large bills from the third and

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fourth quarter 2009. A motion had been made to make a decision at the August meeting. Mr. Caffrey figured out the average to be 6,500. Mr. Lawler made a motion to use the average of 6,500 for those two quarters and credit the difference in the amount of \$220.80 and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. Mrs. Millikin called the roll: Mr. Pham – yes and Mr. Caffrey – yes.

Mr. Baldwin indicated that the Water Filtration Plant and Waste Water Treatment Plant are running smoothly and that the recent DEP inspection was successful. Mr. Baldwin stated that a boil water notice had gone out on August 17, 2010 and a reverse 911 call was made due to a valve repair on New Hampshire Street.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons indicated that the report from the hydrant testing had been presented to the Town Council. There are a total of 368 hydrants, which have been categorized into colors: 39% are Red (less than 500 gpm), 25% are Orange (501-999 gpm), 33% are Green, (1,000-1,499 gpm) and 2% are Blue (1,500 gpm or greater). Mr. Simmons stated that the Repairs and Capital Improvements have been put into four categories: Immediate Improvements (fire hydrant repairs), Short-Term Improvements (repairs to hydrants to increase flow), Medium-Term Improvements (Merriam Avenue improvement) and Long-Term Improvements (repairs still needed after Medium-Term Improvements have been done). Mr. Simmons indicated that Thorlabs is contributing money towards the Merriam Avenue plans. Mr. Simmons stated that the Water Department is doing a great job with leak detection.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Lawler and seconded by Mr. Vrahnos, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Amanda Tomasello