

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
April 19, 2011

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on April 19, 2011 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. Vrahnos, Ms. Unhoch , Mr. Pham and Chairman Lawler. Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water & Sewer Supervisor, Mrs. Amanda Tomasello, Utility Collector and Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. were also in attendance. Mr. Caffrey and Mrs. Debra Milikin were excused.

Mr. Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to reorganization. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to postpone the reorganization of the board. The Board agreed to carry this to the May meeting. Mr. Lawler then moved to the approval of minutes from the March 15, 2011 meeting. There being no issues Mr. Lawler made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. 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 Sussex Enterprises disputing high 4th quarter 2010 and 1st quarter 2011 bills. The owner of the property, Ishmal, was in attendance. He explained that his property is a small store using water only for one bathroom and making coffee. Ishmal explained that he just finished a two month renovation of the store and had a plumber come in to check to make sure there were no leaks and there were not. Mr. Lawler asked if it were possible that someone was using his water and Ishmal said no there is no outside access. Mr. Lawler stated that the usage in question equals approximately 410 gallons per day. Mr. Vrahnos made a motion to table the application until the May meeting after the meter had been read again and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Ms. Lawler – yes and Mr. Pham – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for 85 ½ Trinity Street requesting approval to tap into the twelve inch main for the sprinkler system. The sprinkler

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contractor, Bill Sodimier, was in attendance. Mr. Sodimier stated that this property is being renovated to become a group home for Alzheimer's patients. Mr. Simmons stated that the planning board has already approved the plans for this project and it requires a two inch copper line from the street into the building. Mr. Lawler made a motion to approve the request subject to the water and sewer supervisor's approval and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Ms. Unhoch – yes and Mr. Pham – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Kenneth and Ruby Toner disputing a high 3rd quarter bill. Mrs. Tomasello explained that the water department has checked the meter and the readings are accurate. Mr. Lawler made a motion to deny request and asked Mrs. Tomasello to advise the owners that they can have the meter tested and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Pham – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for DQ Investments requesting a credit of minimum charges paid. Ms. Tomasello explained that the outside reader was stuck since the 3rd quarter 2010 and minimum bills were sent and paid. In March the reader was replaced, therefore they received a high 1st quarter bill, which was also paid. Mr. Lawler made a motion to credit the minimum charge for the two quarters in the amount of \$150.00 and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Ms. Unhoch – yes and Mr. Pham – yes.

The next application on the agenda was for Richard Lister requesting waiver of penalty fee of \$34.36. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Mr. Lawler. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Pham – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

The final application on the agenda was for Jason Guilliano requesting waiver of penalty fee of \$18.38. Mr. Lawler made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Pham – yes and Mr. Vrahnos – yes.

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Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business on the agenda. The first matter on the agenda was for Peter Laemers disputing a high 4th quarter bill. Mrs. Tomasello explained that Mr. Laemers called and a water sewer representative was sent out to look at the meter and the reading was correct. Mr. Lawler made a motion to deny request and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Mr. Vrahnos – yes and Mr. Pham - abstain.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Water Filtration Plant Update and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Update. Mr. Baldwin indicated that both are running smoothly. Mr. Baldwin stated that the eagle had two babies that hatched. Mr. Baldwin indicated that hydrant flushing was starting on Saturday, April 23, 2011.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons indicated that Mrs. Millikin has budget approval to go out for bid for the materials for the Merriam Avenue Waterline project. Mr. Simmons stated that they have received approvals from Soil Conservation, DEP and Sussex County. Mr. Simmons stated that they are close to being able to go out for bid on the Morris Lake Dam project. Mr. Simmons indicated that negotiations are still in progress for the Sparta Stop and Shop project.

Mrs. Tomasello stated that 132 shut off letters were sent on April 14, 2011. Mrs. Tomasello also stated that the Finance Department is working on making online payments available for water and sewer bills.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Lawler and seconded by Mr. Vrahnos, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Amanda Tomasello