

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
May 17, 2011

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on May 17, 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. Caffrey 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. Pham and Mrs. Debra Milikin were excused.

Mr. Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to reorganization. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to postpone the reorganization of the board until there was a full quorum. The Board agreed to carry this to the May meeting. Mr. Lawler then moved to the approval of minutes from the April 19, 2011 meeting. There being no issues Ms. Unhoch 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 JFL 18 Academy Street LLC disputing a high 1st quarter bill. Mrs. Tomasello explained that the meter has been stuck since 1st quarter 2009 and minimum bills were sent and paid for 8 quarters in the amount of \$600.00. In the 1st quarter 2011, the computer incorrectly estimated the reading at zero, billing the property for 900,000 gallons for a total of \$15,307.00. On March 16, 2011 Erv from the Water Department went to the property and got the actual reading of 178,740. This was a usage of 78,740, which is the total amount used since the meter had been stuck since 1st quarter 2009. On resolution #57-2010 a credit in the amount of \$13,961.42 was issued, which represented a credit for 821,260 gallons which was the difference between the billed usage of 900,000 and the actual usage of 78,740. This made the new amount due \$1,345.58, which represents 78,740 gallons for the 9 stuck quarters plus 2 ½ months of the current quarter. On May 11, 2011 Erv read the meter and the reading was 180,970, which is a usage of 2,230 since the last time

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
May 17, 2011

the meter was read on March 16, 2011. As of May 12, 2011 the total amount due is \$1,480.14, which represents the total due of \$1,345.58 plus the late penalty of \$134.56. Mr. Baldwin stated that once this issue is resolved, the property will be getting a new meter. Mr. Lawler made a motion to credit the account in the amount of \$600.00 for the minimum charges paid and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Ms. Unhoch – yes and Mr. Caffrey – yes.

The final application on the agenda was for Narin Thai requesting a waiver of penalty. Mr. Vrahnos made a motion to credit the account in the amount of \$45.92 for the penalty as a one-time only courtesy and was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Ms. Unhoch – yes and Mr. Lawler – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to Old Business on the agenda. The first matter 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. Mr. Baldwin stated that the new meter is working properly and on May 12, 2011 the meter reading was 3,030 for the new meter installed on March 1, 2011. Ishmal stated that the new usage sounds correct and he would like a credit on his large 1st quarter bill. Mr. Lawler stated that the original meter tested and came back accurate, proving that the water had been used. Mr. Baldwin stated that a new remote reader would be installed the following day. Mr. Lawler made a motion to deny the request and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. Mr. Lawler called the roll: Ms. Unhoch – yes and Mr. Caffrey – yes.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Water Filtration Plant Update and the Wastewater Treatment Plant Update. Mr. Baldwin indicated that both are running smoothly.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Engineer's Report. Mr. Simmons indicated that bids were taken for the pipe for the Merriam Avenue project and awarded to Kennedy Culvert & Supply. After the bid was awarded, it was discovered that there was an error made in their bid regarding the type of pipe so they are

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
May 17, 2011

speaking to the attorneys on withdrawing the bid. Mr. Simmons stated that they are also out for bid on the Morris Lake Dam project. Mr. Simmons advised that reports for the Newton Water & Sewer Master Plan have been sent to the Town Council for review at the May 23, 2011 meeting. Mr. Simmons stated that the Thorlabs project is progressing smoothly and they should be connecting into the new pipes mid-July. Mr. Simmons stated that there is progress being made for the Sparta Stop & Shop.

There being no other business to discuss upon motion of Mr. Caffrey and seconded by Mr. Vrahnos, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Amanda Tomasello