

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
June 21, 2011

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on June 21, 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, Mr. Pham and Chairman Lawler. Mr. Paul Baldwin, Water & Sewer Supervisor, Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector and Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. were also in attendance. Mrs. Debra Millikin was excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to the issue of Mr. Glueck, as he was waiting in the lobby. Mr. Glueck was requesting that the delinquent penalty be credited to his tenant because the two-family home should not have been shut off according to ordinance. A discussion was held between Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Lawler about examination of the ordinance. After hearing a statement from Mr. Glueck on behalf of his tenant, Ms. Unhoch made a motion to grant a credit for the \$50 shutoff fee. Motion was seconded by Mr. Caffrey and unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The minutes were presented from the May 17, 2011, meeting and Ms. Unhoch proposed an amendment. Mr. Lawler then made a motion to accept, pending the amendment to the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. The amended minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to the next order of New Business under request for utility customers. The next application on the agenda was for Mr. Syberg who was requesting an adjustment for usage due to a water leak. Mr. Baldwin stated that the leak had been fixed, and Mr. Vrahnos stated that the water had gone through the meter. Chairman Lawler and Mr. Baldwin examined the bill from Heine Plumbing and what was done to repair the leak. Mr. Pham inquired about the letter to Mr. Syberg from Mrs. Tomasello stating that there was excess usage, and Mrs. Shackleton stated the protocol for excessive/minimal usage.

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Ms. Unhoch motioned to deny the request for adjustment and Mr. Vrahnos seconded. It was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

The next issue on the agenda was for Acquiring Enterprises, disputing late charges. Mr. Baldwin stated that the owner was willing to pay the usage but wanted credit for the late fees. Mr. Baldwin also stated that the owner has eight accounts that have always been paid on time, but the disputed water was used when they were preparing the unit for a new tenant. Because there was no record of the usage available at the meeting, Mr. Lawler motioned to table until the next meeting. Ms. Unhoch seconded and it was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The next item on the agenda was for Kathy & Paul Sakellaropoulos. A request was made for credit on minimum bills paid for 25 quarters when the meter was stuck, totaling \$1875. Ms. Unhoch refrained from commenting, as she felt it would be a conflict. Chairman Lawler inquired if it was the reader or the meter that was stuck. Mr. Baldwin explained that the reader was stuck and the inside meter has since been changed. Mr. Vrahnos inquired as to why it was never detected and a discussion was held regarding credits being given for usage. Mr. Lawler stated that there was no way to explain the past and motioned to credit the account for minimum usage of 25 quarters. Mr. Caffrey seconded and it was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

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. Chairman Lawler requested a printout of his usage for the next meeting.

Chairman Lawler moved to the Water Filtration Plant Update. Mr. Simmons indicated that it has been a busy month. He stated that Morris Lake right abutment bids were made on the project and the bid was awarded to T.R. Weniger Inc. An August or September completion date is expected. Mr. Simmons discussed the 2011 Newton Water & Sewer Master Plan, and how it

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addresses pipe sizes in various grouped areas around the town, based on the results of the fire hydrant flow tests previously conducted.

Mr. Simmons initiated a discussion about the June 6, 2011, water break and commented on great communication and cooperation of Town Employees.

Chairman Lawler extended thanks to the Town Manager for his excellent communication with the public.

Chairman Lawler inquired as to any other issues and Ms. Unhoch stated the Election for Reorganization. Mr. Lawler motioned that since there was a full quorum, it should not be tabled. Ms. Unhoch seconded and it was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote. Mr. Caffrey motioned for Mr. Lawler to continue as chairman and Mr. Vrahnos seconded. It was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote. Mr. Vrahnos motioned for Ms. Unhoch as Vice Chairperson and Mr. Caffrey seconded. It was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

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

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton