

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
October 18, 2011

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on October 18, 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: 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 approval of the minutes from the July 19, 2011 meeting. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to accept and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler moved to the first order of New Business under request for utility customers. The first application on the agenda was for Mr. Galvao who was requesting an additional adjustment for sewer due to a water leak. Since the leak was repaired on May 30, Mr. Lawler motioned to accept the request for one third of the sewer charges of the third quarter to be credited. Mr. Caffrey seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted by an "aye" vote.

The next issue on the agenda was for Mrs. Carroll who was requesting waiver of a late fee which she received one year ago when her payment was not delivered by the U.S. Postal Service before the due date. Mr. Lawler stated that we are not responsible for the U.S. Postal Service and motioned to deny the request. Mr. Caffrey seconded the motion and it was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

The final issue of New Business on the agenda was that of Robert Howering. Mr. Howering was requesting a credit for minimum bills paid while the meter was stuck. Mr. Lawler stated that if credit was given for minimum bills for all seven quarters, the current bill would be wiped out. Mr. Pham suggested that if we divide the usage by eight, we could spread the usage on the current bill over each quarter that the meter was stuck. Mr. Baldwin stated that if that were

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done, he would still have received minimum bills for all of the quarters. Mr. Pham suggested a credit in the amount which was in excess of the minimum charge on the current bill. Ms. Unhoch motioned to accept said credit and Mr. Caffrey seconded. It was unanimously accepted by an "aye" vote.

There being no more new business, Mr. Lawler inquired about the status of the water filtration plant. Mr. Baldwin stated that it was satisfactory. Mr. Lawler then inquired about the wastewater treatment plant and Mr. Baldwin again stated that it was satisfactory.

Regarding the engineer's report, Mr. Simmons stated that the Merriam Avenue service lines were going well and that weather permitting; there would be a flow test shortly. He expected good results.

Mr. Caffrey inquired as to whether the hydrant on Merriam Avenue would be raised, and Mr. Baldwin stated that it would.

Mr. Simmons explained that he took a tour of Sparta Glen and generated a report to the Town Council. He stated that the main is intact, but there were three main areas impacted.

The first area impacted was on Glen Road where a tree fell down and blocked the opening of the access drive. The center line over the transmission line is eroded and needs to be marked out and filled in with gravel.

The second area is at stream crossing #1 where a tree fell down. The flow of water was diverted and cut a channel. The bad part is that the eroded area went beyond the cement. The tree needs to be removed and the area filled in.

The third area was at stream crossing #2. The area was eroded down to the concrete and created a mini waterfall. Fortunately, the pipe was put in through interlocking joints, protecting its integrity.

Mr. Simmons further stated that there were other secondary areas affected outside of the bank. The main was not compromised, but ruts were created in areas which will eventually rot.

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He stated that all of these issues were worked out with FEMA and Mitchell Insurance Company. Responses from both are forthcoming.

Jersey Investors put pipe in to adjust the easement and also obtained a permit to take the house down. The Morris Lake Abutment is waiting for DEP approvals which are delayed because of the recent flooding. Mr. Simmons gave an explanation of the history of various easements around Town and said that issues with them are being addressed as they become present.

Mr. Lawler inquired as to why the hydrant at the corner of Hicks and Sparta Avenue is bagged. Mr. Baldwin stated that it wouldn't shut off and they are working to repair it.

There being no other business to discuss, upon motion of Chairman Lawler and seconded by Ms. Unhoch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton