

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
January 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on January 17, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. 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. Vrahnos, Mr. Caffrey, 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 October 18, 2011 meeting. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to accept and was seconded by Mr Vrahnos. 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 order of business was for Gillian Columbus at 19 Diller Avenue. Ms. Columbus was appealing her high fourth quarter bill because she did not believe there were any leaks on the premises and before paying to have the meter tested, she wanted to appeal the high usage to the Board.

Mr. Caffrey and Mr. Vrahnos had a brief discussion regarding the excessive usage. Mr. Vrahnos suggested that since the house is vacant, Ms. Columbus should shut the water off at the main. Mr. Baldwin stated that the customer did not wish to shut the water off at this time. Mr. Lawler made a motion to deny and Mr. Vrahnos seconded. It was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

There being no more new business, Mr. Baldwin stated that both the water filtration plant and sewer plant are running fine.

Mr. Simmons gave an update regarding the renewal of the Water Allocation Permit. He stated that the State is requiring more information for Phase 1 of the renewal than what we have now. The Town is working to break down residential, commercial, industrial and non-profit accounts. Several

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members of the Finance Department have been diligently working to obtain said information.

Another issue for obtaining the permit is unaccounted water. Jack Smalley at the Morris Lake plant has been helping with this issue. He has been keeping a running log of water that is re circulated for plant use and testing. This accounts for several million gallons of water per year.

Mr. Simmons stated that there was a meeting with Jersey Investors regarding the Stop & Shop. Last fall, two sections of pipe were installed under the Town Center Connector, enabling the new Stop & Shop to open. Now, because of the mild weather, they want to construct a by pass on the Ogdensubrg to Main Street Town center just before the current pipes. Mr. Simmons advised them not to make interconnects in the winter because it is important to keep the water running to avoid freezing. In order for them to do the interconnect, they would have to shut the water off, causing it not to move. He stated that he was successful in convincing them not to do the interconnects at this time.

Mr. Simmons went on to say that Sparta Glen plans to go out for bid for repair, which was coordinated with the Sparta Engineer.

Finally, Mr. Simmons reported that Hayek's Market is going before the Planning Board tomorrow night regarding the expansion of same. There are currently many easements on the property and they also may have to get new easements. The building will not be impacted, and the easements will be settled on while the expansion is taking place.

There being no other business to discuss, upon motion of Chairman Lawler and seconded by Mr. Vrahnos, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton