

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
March 20, 2012

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on March 20, 2012, at 7 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. Caffrey, Mr. Pham and Chairman Lawler. Mrs. Debra Millikin, Mr. Ervin Lasso, Water Sewer Foreman, Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, and Mr. David B. Simmons, Jr. were also in attendance. Mr. Paul Baldwin was excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to approval of the minutes from the January 17, 2012 meeting. Mr. Caffrey made a motion to accept and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Mrs. Millikin introduced Ervin Lasso, Water Sewer Foreman who was standing in for Paul Baldwin, and Chairman Lawler moved to the first order of New Business under request for utility customers.

The first order of business was for Dynamic Cap Properties, 54A-12 Mill Street, for credit for minimum payments while the meter was stuck. Mr. Lasso explained that the meter had been stuck for four quarters and that it went undetected because it is not uncommon for said units to be vacant. Chairman Lawler made a motion to grant the request and Mr. Caffrey seconded. It was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

There being no more new business, Mrs. Millikin stated that both the water filtration plant and sewer plant are running fine. She further stated that the Town has received its NJPDES Permit for Morris Lake and all is going well. She also reported that there was a recent inspection by the DEP regarding the Water Allocation permits.

Mr. Caffrey inquired as to whether there have been any run-off problems and Mrs. Millikin reported that there have been no issues. She said that any precipitation in the next few weeks will determine future issues.

Mr. Simmons gave an update regarding the renewal of the Water Allocation Permit. He stated that the current procedure is to have staff report findings over the ten-year period covered by the permit. Mr. Simmons explained that this is important because the DEP looks at data covering five years. If the water department is diligent in finding leaks, there will be more success in keeping unaccounted water at a minimum. He feels that leak detection is an issue that will be stressed more in the future, and noted that a great deal has changed over the past ten years.

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Mrs. Millikin reported that flights were replaced in two primary clarifiers. This procedure was done in-house and at this time all are running well. She further stated that a new flusher truck was purchased in January and is running well also.

Chairman Lawler inquired about the 19 Diller Avenue appeal to Council and the test results of said meter. Mrs. Shackleton explained that the meter came back accurate and a letter was sent reporting same. Chairman Lawler suggested that an additional letter be sent to the homeowner, stating the importance of returning the original meter.

Mr. Simmons reported that bids were received for future main replacement of strut valves from the bridge on Moran Street to the Public Works Garage. The main will be dug out and wrapped in polyethylene to protect the integrity of same.

He reported briefly on easements for Sparta Jersey Investors, Kin Properties, Hayeks Market and George's Salvage, and also that Weis Markets will go before the planning board to make the exterior vestibule interior, turning the interior vestibule into expanded sale space.

There being no other business to discuss, upon motion of Chairman Lawler and seconded by Mr. Caffrey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton