

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
April 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on April 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. Caffrey, Mr. Pham, Mr. Vrahnos 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. Millikin was excused.

Chairman Lawler read the Open Public Meetings Act statement and then moved to approval of the minutes from the March 20, 2012 meeting. Mr. Vrahnos made a motion to accept and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The minutes were unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The first order of business was for Sebring Auto Parts, 99 Water Street, for credit for sewer charges due to a frozen meter and water leak. Mr. Baldwin explained that the house is vacant and that is the reason for the leak not being detected right away. Ms. Unhoch made a motion to grant the request and Mr. Caffrey seconded. It was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

The second order of business was for Lewis Qarmout, 45 Merriam Avenue, for credit for minimum bills for the two quarters that the meter was stuck. Chairman Lawler inquired as to why there were numerous quarters in the past with no activity. Mr. Baldwin explained that the house had burned down and was subsequently replaced with a modular home. Mr. Pham inquired about the 100 gallons indicated on several quarters and Mr. Baldwin explained that there was no usage indicated on the inside meter which is the true reading. Chairman Lawler made a motion to accept and Ms. Unhoch seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Regarding old business, there was a brief discussion about 19 Diller Avenue and the homeowner's failure to attend the Town Council meeting. Mrs. Shackleton reported that Ms. Columbus will be on the agenda again for the next meeting.

There being no more business, Chairman Lawler inquired about the Water Sewer Plant. Mr. Baldwin explained that they purchased new computers because there was a problem with the software. Chairman Lawler asked if there was any impact from the D.E.P. regarding same, and Mr. Baldwin stated there was none.

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Mr. Simmons gave an update regarding bids for the Moran Street water line. He stated that a bid has been accepted, and the Water Sewer crew will be installing the pipe covered in polyethylene. Mr. Baldwin stated that they would be beginning work on Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. Simmons further stated that bids will be taken on May 8, 2012, for Maple Avenue at Route 206 and Elm Street for 25 services. Mr. Baldwin stated that said area will be next, and that paving from previous projects will commence in June, once school is out.

Mr. Simmons also reported that Jersey Investors is currently working on the relocation of two transmission mains in Sparta. The pipe was put underground before the two homes were torn down and that a gauge may be installed to keep track of the water from the Pine Street swamp diversion. Mr. Baldwin stated that he doesn't want to see too much money spent on something that is not used. Mr. Simmons stated that they do not want to lose the Pine Street swamp diversion either.

Mr. Simmons discussed dam #2 and how no one knew where the valve was located. Walker Diving was hired, and they used a jetting tool to find the end of the gate and place a buoy to indicate the location of the valve.

Mr. Simmons gave an update on the easements, beginning with Ave Care on Trinity Street, Hayeks Market and George's Salvage. Discussion of the easements led to a discussion about the underground camera owned by the Town, and Mr. Baldwin stated that they subcontracted work for Hampton Township with the camera as well. Mr. Simmons stated that it is an excellent tool to have.

There being no other business to discuss, upon motion of Chairman Lawler and seconded by Mr. Vrahnos, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton