

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board  
September 17, 2019

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on September 17, 2019 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: Chairman Lawler, Mr. Carchia, Mr. Vrahnos and Mr. Lockwood. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, and Mr. Michael Fisher, Engineer with Dykstra Walker, were also present.

Chairman Lawler opened the meeting and began with approval of the August 20, 2019 minutes. Mr. Simmons had some revisions, and Chairman Lawler motioned to approve the minutes with the revisions and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos. They were unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

Chairman Lawler went to old business first, namely the Thorlabs – Quantum Leap project on Lower Spring Street. He recapped stating that Thorlabs was requesting additional credits for both the Nova Phase and Newton Pizza buildings which are to be razed. Mr. Simmons explained that he revised the fees, giving credit for the two buildings to be razed, as well as creating a payment schedule with installments to be paid by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Vrahnos motioned to approve the matter and was seconded by Mr. Lockwood. The matter was approved with an "aye" vote.

The first order of new business was for the construction of a group home at 30 Madison Street. Mr. Michael Fisher, Engineer from Dykstra Walker, was present. He explained that the group home would simply be a single-family residence for four disabled people. Chairman Lawler asked about the driveway and Mr. Simmons said that it is off of the right of way. Chairman Lawler asked if the slab was to stay and Mr. Simmons said it will be cleaned up. Mr. Fisher said it will be removed. Mr. Vrahnos asked if it was going to be a home for folks with dementia and Mr. Fisher replied that it will be for folks with cerebral palsy. Mr. Vrahnos asked if they have other homes in Newton and Mr. Fisher stated that they did not. Mr. Simmons stated that he was told they would be using 500 GPD and he originally worked up fees for commercial until Nouvelle provided information to treat it as

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a single-family residence. Mr. Simmons stated that by ordinance, group homes receive a 50% credit and he worked up the fees to reflect that credit. Chairman Lawler asked what size water/sewer they will have and Mr. Simmons stated that they will have standard residential 4" sewer and ¾" water. Mr. Vrahnos asked if it will be sprinklered and need more pressure. Mr. Simmons stated that would be up to the applicant and the fire subcode official. After a brief discussion about generators and transportation, Mr. Vrahnos motioned to approve the application pending approvals from the fire subcode. Mr. Carchia seconded subject to county and state approvals. The matter was approved with an "aye" vote.

Regarding the Water Plant and Sewer Treatment Plant, Mr. Carr was not present, but Mrs. Shackleton reported that Morris Lake was eight inches below the spillway and everything else was status quo.

In his engineer report, Mr. Simmons stated that instead of working on bridge Q6, they are working on the route 15 bridge because they received funding for same and do not want to lose the funding. They need to bid out the Q6 project and update the 16" main and take care of drainage and other utilities following JCP & L. There is a pocket where all of the power for Sparta is located so they have to be careful. Mr. Carchia asked what the main is made of and Mr. Simmons thought it was made of prestressed concrete. He said that they are still deciding how to handle the main. He said that the Bula Building project is on hold, but they are proceeding with the subdivision.

There being no more business to discuss, Chairman Lawler motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Vrahnos.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
Jacki Shackleton