

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
July 18, 2023

A regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on July 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. via zoom. The meeting was called to order and the following members were present: Mr. Vrahnos, Mr. Carchia, and Mr. Imhoff. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Michael Awertschenko, licensed water operator, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, were present.

The first order of business was for approval of the April 18, 2023 minutes. Chairman Vrahnos motioned to approve the minutes and the motion was seconded by Mr. Carchia. The minutes were unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

The first order of new business was for Bristol Glen at 200 Woodside Avenue who was requesting waiver of penalty because their mail was stolen out of the outgoing mailbox resulting in a late payment. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Chairman Vrahnos to deny the request in accordance with the ordinance that payment must be received by the due date. The denial was seconded by Mr. Carchia. It was unanimously denied with an "aye" vote.

Under old business regarding the water filtration plant, Mr. Awertschenko reported that two new strainers were installed at the plant, and the lake is two or three inches over the spillway.

In his engineer's report, Mr. Simmons said that regarding bridge Q6, the contractor put a temporary bypass main and relocated the Newton main, giving us a new easement. JCPL will be coming next week and the County Engineer, Susan Delmar said they will be done by September.

Quantum Realm broke ground in the old EJ Brooks area. Phase 1 is completed and they may be going to phase 2. Water Street Holdings is hoping for CO's on Building 1 soon and building 2 and 3 by the end of the year. There is a Diet Plan on Mill Street from 206 to Swartwood Road, which is a project where they narrow the road. The hydrant has been moved and the project is ongoing.

Regarding 122-124 Main Street, they went to the Planning Board requesting

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to add four more apartments and were denied. They made some changes and are returning to the Planning Board. If approved, they will come back to the Utility Board for approval of same. Chairman Vrahnos asked about an incident there where they stripped the building down to the studs. Mr. Simmons stated that it was all worked out, and they will be complying going forward.

Regarding the college, their project to add showers to Building E has been put on hold. They paid \$50,000 to hook up Building R and Horton Mansion to the sewer. They are going to the Planning Board tomorrow for the underground PR chamber. They plan on doing that at night this summer.

The Lead Service Line Replacement Program is in year two of a ten-year plan, and they now have information on about 700 lines to date. Mr. Awertschenko is monitoring the website where property owners can fill out a survey and take pictures of their service lines to assist in knowing what needs to be replaced. Mr. Simmons stated that it used to be just lead, but now galvanized is considered lead and needs to be replaced.

Mr. Simmons stated that he had to testify in the lawsuit regarding the uncooperative property owner near Fox Hollow that was mentioned at the last Utility Advisory Board meeting. The court ruled that the blockages placed by the property owner had to be removed.

Mr. Simmons went on to talk about Anderson Farms and how the produce stand is on top of our pipes. The owner is suing the people who sold it to him as well as the attorney who represented him in the sale. Whether he was to move the stand or reroute our main, it would be a huge undertaking.

There being no other business to discuss, Chairman Vrahnos motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Imhof. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton