

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
July 19, 2011

The regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on July 19, 2011 at 7:30 pm 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, 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 June 21, 2011, meeting. After discussion of several minor amendments, Mr. Lawler made a motion to accept, pending amendments to the minutes and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The amended 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 application on the agenda was for Mr. Galvao who was requesting an adjustment for sewer due to a water leak. Ms. Unhoch agreed that the water did not go through the sewer, and Mr. Lawler motioned to accept the request for adjustment. Ms. Unhoch seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted by an "aye" vote.

The next issue on the agenda was for Ms. Wunderlich who moved into her home in late March and received a minimum bill covering water usage for the remainder of March and April, 2011. Ms. Wunderlich failed to pay the bill by the due date and subsequently received a \$7.50 penalty. She was disputing the partial-period bill as well as the late penalty. After considering her usage for the partial quarter, Mr. Lawler motioned to deny the request and it was seconded by Mr. Caffrey. The motion was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

The final issue of New Business on the agenda was that of Ms. Bryce, requesting credit for a delinquent penalty because her financial institution's bill-pay system did not submit the check before the due date. Mrs. Shackleton stated that there were numerous customers who utilized various bank's bill-pay systems and incurred late fees this quarter. Mr. Lawler motioned to deny the

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request and was seconded by Ms. Unhoch. The motion was unanimously denied by an "aye" vote.

At this time, a discussion of old business, namely the usage of Sussex Enterprises took place. Upon examination of usage to date, Mr. Lawler stated that said usage seems to be on track at this time.

The next order of old business was regarding the "Shut Off Ordinance." Upon examination of number 5, section i, if an account covering a multi-family dwelling presents for shut off more than once, a dual shut off valve can be mandated. Mr. Lawler stated that although we cannot shut off both units of a multiple dwelling when one unit is not paying, the ordinance states that we do not have to let nonpayment continue.

The next order of business, tabled from the previous meeting, was Acquiring Enterprises, disputing late charges while disputing a large bill from the first quarter. Mr. Lawler motioned to waive the delinquent fee and Mr. Caffrey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by an "aye" vote.

Regarding the engineer's report, Mr. Simmons initiated a discussion on the Water Filtration Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Baldwin announced that water tests of both had passed and Mr. Lawler thanked him.

Mr. Simmons discussed the Merriam Avenue project and stated that the Crew completed the most critical and difficult section of the project, including the main and first hydrant. Mr. Baldwin added that the crew tested same and did not lose any water. Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Eckstein from his office was out working with the Water Department on the project.

Mr. Simmons announced that there is a preconstruction meeting scheduled for Morris Lake with Jersey Investors. He stated further that Jersey Investors were able to negotiate an agreement between the Town and Stop & Shop. Mr. Simmons gave a detailed explanation on the history of the Stop & Shop area and what was negotiated.

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Mr. Lawler stated that it all sounded good and Mr. Baldwin inquired as to when the issues agreed upon would take place. Mr. Simmons replied that they would take place in approximately three weeks.

Mrs. Shackleton initiated a discussion regarding payments and discussion of accounts with tenants, and Mr. Lawler suggested that tenants be informed that that they have the option to pay the bill in order to avoid being turned off.

There being no other business to discuss, upon motion of Chairman Lawler and seconded by Ms. Unhoch, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton