

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA
Tuesday March 19, 2013

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

2013 APR -3 A 11: 07

6:30pm. Meeting called to order. Commissioners Steve Wiseman, Luke Grant and Diane McElligott present. Also present Duane Knapp, Rose Melito, Fran Yanuskiewicz and Rick Dorney.

The Board welcomed Mr. Dorney as the liaison with FinCom to the meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 4, 2013 Board Meeting were read, approved and signed as submitted.

Chairman's Business:

Superintendent's Position: Commissioner Wiseman stated that the Town Manager informed him there were fifteen applicants. The screening committee will be made up of; the Town Manager, One Selectmen, One W/S Commissioner and the Highway Superintendent. No word at this time of a date to begin.

Temporary Position: When asked Mr. Knapp replied he sent his recommendation to the town manager and he is supposed to be interviewing the applicant tomorrow. Commissioner Grant questioned the process, why the Board had no input and why it wasn't publicly advertised. Mr. Knapp stated it doesn't have to be advertised, the town manager said go through the applications on file. Commissioner Grant stated this was discussed at a previous meeting and the Board should have had more input, the job should have been advertised, there are a lot of people out of work right now, it's always a good practice to draw from the biggest pool possible. Commissioner Grant motioned that all future job openings be advertised and addressed by this Board prior to the recommendation to the town manager. Commissioner McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor:

Luke Grant – aye

Diane McElligott – aye

Steve Wiseman – aye

So voted.

Special Counsel: No discussion with town manager yet. Commissioner Wiseman will follow up and question if K & P's contract language prohibits the use of Special Counsel.

Mansfield Bill: Commissioner Wiseman asked Fran to assist him with the letter that is to accompany the bill.

Superintendent's Updates: Mr. Knapp informed the Board they had to send an email formally withdrawing the article request to purchase the Reilly property. Mr. Knapp stated he attended the ZBA meeting the night before; 274 East Main St. Project discussed issues inside the development regarding water and fire protection (Fire Dept also present at ZBA) and Island Brook is pushing forward as well, no definitive plans available but that project is not dead. There is also talk of possible movement with the Turtle Crossing Project.

The crew is doing winter clean-up, working on equipment.

Walker Street project complete except for permanent paving.

Commissioner McElligott stated the sewer installation on East Main Street was completed in November and questioned if all the abutter notices were sent to the property owners on East Main St., Newland St, Keith Drive and Keene Way. Mr. Knapp stated he was still trying to verify names and addresses but they should be out within the next two weeks.

Commissioner Grant said he would like to follow-up on a request from a few months back and questioned whether the sewer manhole covers in the Grove had been uncovered and risers installed. Mr. Knapp said he didn't know and would check with the sewer crew.

7:00pm. Commissioner Wiseman opened the Public Hearing on Water and Sewer Rate Increases. The Water/Sewer Commissioners are proposing a 4.25% increase on the water rates, excluding the minimum charge and a 4.25% increase on the sewer rate including the minimum charge.

Page 3

March 19, 2013 – Minutes

Continued

The purpose of this increase is to generate the revenue needed for annual bond payments for the water treatment plant and the sewer distribution system - wastewater plant expansion. The water treatment plant is estimated to be 8-9 million dollars with a 20 year bond. The sewer system is looking at a 37 million dollar bond over a 30 year period. Mr. Wiseman asked if there were any questions, statements or input from the Public.

Mr. James Breckner of 37 John Scott Blvd. asked what the new rates would be. The Board stated the following:

Water

Current Minimum Charge: \$26.00 (0-400c.f.) - No Change

\$3.00/100c.f. (500-2000c.f.) - **\$3.12/100c.f.** New Rate

\$4.68/100c.f. (above 2000c.f.) - **\$4.88/100c.f.** New Rate

Sewer

Current Minimum Charge: \$75.25 - **\$78.45** New Rate

\$6.60/100c.f. - **\$6.88/100c.f.** New Rate

Any other questions from the public? None

Commissioner Grant made a motion to approve a 4.25% increase in water rates excluding the minimum charge to be effective on and after June 1, 2013.

Commissioner McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion.

All in favor:

Luke Grant – aye

Diane McElligott – aye

Steve Wiseman – aye

So voted.

Commissioner Grant made a motion to approve a 4.25% increase in sewer rates including the minimum charge to be effective on and after June 1, 2013.

Commissioner McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion.

All in favor:

Luke Grant – aye

Diane McElligott – aye

Steve Wiseman – aye

So Voted.

7:15pm. Public Hearing Closed

Commissioner McElligott stated she would prefer to meet in Executive Session with the Selectmen on Thursday evening. She would also like the Treasurer, Town Accountant and a member from FinCom to be there. This town needs to have a solid foundation with everyone on the same side in order to proceed and finalize the IMA Agreement. A roll call vote should be on record.

Herb Kumins: Of 2 Flint Lane came before the Board to request a rebate/refund on his water/sewer bill that he paid January 30th. He stated he called the department the day he got the bill and questioned the amount. It was double the water he has ever used. The reading was verified, the water went through the meter. It was pointed out that the pressure release valve on his hot water tank was leaking. A plumber was called in and that was repaired. After some discussion Commissioner McElligott motioned to refund \$100.00 of the sewer payment but no refund on water. Commissioner Grant seconded the motion. No further discussion.

All in favor:

Diane McElligott – aye

Luke Grant – aye

Steve Wiseman – aye

So voted.

Mr. Kumins thanked the Board for their time and consideration.

Weston & Sampson: Fran said he has a call into Jennifer to go over the Article 97 facts. He asked the Board if they were ready to give their approval to send the Pilot report into the DEP. Mr. Knapp stated that the Town Manager said an RFP is required for the design. Fran stated as far as submitting the report to the DEP, that has nothing to do with an RFP for design, and an RFP is not required by procurement law, but the town has every right to go that route. Mr. Knapp said he thought \$700,000 was too much money for the design. Fran pointed out common practice, design is usually 10% of the project cost and the estimated water treatment plant is around \$8 million. The Board agreed and authorized W&S to forward the report to the DEP. The Board questioned the need for an

Page 5

March 19, 2013 – Minutes

Continued

RFP stating we have to spend more money on an independent engineering company to write an RFP when our in house engineer has done all the preliminary work and knows the project first hand. Fran said just for the record the design for the \$30 million wastewater treatment plant did not have an RFP. Commissioner Wiseman said he would add this to the list of things to talk to the town manager about.

Fran informed the Board that W&S filed Norton's Annual Statistical Report by the 15th. The only red flag was unaccounted for water use, it is over the DEP limits.

CWMP: The financing piece is needed, a Public Hearing needs to be scheduled and the last step is to file with the DEP.

IMA: The O&M Costs-Spreadsheets need to be addressed and changed. The two options discussed were :

Set a percentage increase across the board OR Start increasing when you start putting **new** flow in. (in our case 500,001 g/p/d)

All appropriately processed bills were signed and correspondence was read.

Next meetings April 2, and April 16, 2013 at 6:30pm.

9:30pm. Commissioner Grant motioned to end Regular Session and go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing ongoing IMA and Wheaton negotiations. Commissioner McElligott seconded the motion. No further discussion.

All in favor:

Luke Grant – aye

Diane McElligott – aye

Steve Wiseman – aye

So voted.

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE

Board Meeting Held: March 19, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Rosmarie Melito
Office Administrator

Steve Wiseman
Steve Wiseman, Chairman

4-2-2013
Date Approved

Luke Grant
Luke Grant, Clerk

4/2/13
Date Approved

Diane McElligott
Diane McElligott, Member

2 Apr 2013
Date Approved