

Norton Water/Sewer Commission's Meeting Minutes

for

Thursday, June 23, 2020 at 6:30 pm

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Meeting Attendees:

Frank Fournier – Superintendent
Luke Grant – Commissioner
Steve Bishop – Commissioner
Shane – Media Center
Steve Pedersen – Weston & Sampson
Tara McManus – Weston & Sampson
Barbara Cook – Weston & Sampson

Meeting call started at 6:32. Luke requested Superintendent Updates

Superintendent Update (Frank) –

- Fire sprinkler testing completed for several buildings in town: technicians from the water department witnesses and responded to any system impacts while fire pump testing was completed by technicians from Rustic Fire . All 3 pumps performed as planned and no impacts to town. Whole Market Foods formerly the Sysco building –performed 8 hydrant flow tests on their private fire loop working off their own fire pump with own (2) water storage tanks. Hydrants all tested and no impact to the system there either. Past problems before at this location based on age of the system there, no impacts to town system. Leonard St – pressure and flow test for fire design engineers for sizing new system – scheduled tomorrow. These tests are required for Insurance purposes and by the Norton Fire Dept. testing is performed under real world conditions. There is the possibility of a test being delayed or postponed based on unforeseen conditions, the location, system impacts, type of testing and the amount of water used during the test are all items that are reviewed before a test date is agreed to. Typically, tests are scheduled with an attempt to work around heat/peak water demands.
- Tomorrow's Leonard St test will be started with low flow to clean out any debris and then increase the flow to full, perform the test and slow the hydrant cautiously back down and ultimately fully off once water runs clean. Testing equipment is expensive and distribution system can be temperamental it is extremely important that these tests are performed carefully. Usually the actual test is 5 minutes or less
- Drought Concern: like many other surrounding towns we are almost 14" below normal due to lack of rain and snow. The Aquifer was not replenished with rains a few weeks back. Luckily here in Norton our rules and regulations do not allow any sprinklers/irrigation systems (hard piped or above ground hoses connected to sprinklers) to be connected to the municipal water system. Water Dept. staff are going around to notify and enforce these regulations. We are educating the residents and providing them a copy of the section of the rules that cover the ban on automatic sprinklers we recommend reviewing town website where a full copy of the Rules and Regulations are posted. Our regulations are in place because we are pumping drinking water from a Stressed aquifer. Although residents are often not very happy with the restrictions once we're explained the reasons why; most typically understand. Currently we are attempting to educate as much as possible vs writing tickets. First offense \$150 and goes up from there with termination of water service being the final act. Heed the warning – electric boards up around town notifying customers to limit outdoor water use. If drought continues, the department will post a notice and Ban all outdoor water use. Anyone contacting for future fire testing will be pushed off until outside of water use restriction. Notices are left at doorstep in a noticeable location if nobody answers the door. Many residents state they are not aware of the restrictions (new to town, don't monitor town websites, etc.). residents have been following the restrictions once they are made aware.

Weston & Sampson Water Update (Tara) –

- WTP – Continue to make progress on the punch list. Methuen is working on scheduling remaining subcontractors. Working on the recycle tank and getting Fall River Electric onsite to complete the generator startup work at Well 5. Propane tanks filled and connected to generator so ready for them now. Still a few project closeout items Methuen needs to provide (As-Builts, paperwork) but working on it. They are committed to wrapping this project up and making sure everything is functioning properly. Looking to setup a site meeting in the next week or so to discuss any concerns or outstanding issues from all parties as we work towards project closeout.
- Pine St Water Main Project – Water main work is complete as previously noted last meeting. Last Friday Contractor returned to the site to remove and dispose of all the straw wattles and re-loam & seed some areas. Met with Con Com agent for permission and Contractor spread some straw from the inside of the wattles to help stabilize the area. Some areas have a little grass growing but as Frank mentioned, we're in a drought and could use some rain. As noted previously, Fall 2020 Contractor to return to complete final trench paving and the Town will complete final roadway paving next year.
- Holmes & East Main Water Main Project – Final trench paving completed on Thursday (6/18) – both milling and pavement overlay. Overall project complete unless some issues with the final paving come up. Project was successful and came in a little under budget.
- Wells 5 & 6 Replacement – Driller completed 8" test well drilling. Waiting on delivery of new screen and they'll be back to install the screen and develop the well. Should take about a week then 5-day pumping test will be conducted after. Pumping test timing/startup will be coordinated with Frank and the WTP operators to minimize concerns with the current drought conditions
- Question from Frank on Pine Street – can you provide a brief summary of the schedule. Tara – Project as-bid was anticipated to take ~5 months to complete installation of the water main and services. Contractor finished in just under 3. We didn't hit as much ledge as anticipated so they were able to move pretty fast. Less need for engineering onsite inspection and police details. We were also able to close street down and divert all traffic except local residents which also helped improve production. Overall, successful project which wrapped up several months earlier than expected – less unsuitable material and ledge than anticipated so saved on Police Details and Engineering Services. Very good for a project that started just after COVID. Good coordination with all parties involved.

Weston & Sampson Sewer Update (Steve P) –

- West Main St Sewer Project – Contractor is onsite working now and hammering away at the ledge. Gas Company was onsite yesterday regarding a gas service (gas company requested to stop work to investigate) but no damage to service found by gas company and work resumed today. Second crew is anticipated to start in the near future to work up by the pump station to install sewer pipe. Original intent to install sewer (gravity and force main lines) to be installed in the old water main trench. However, moving pipeline to other side of the road now based on current field information. Shallower work and different rock/boulder profile than on West Main. Meeting with Roccio & Water/Sewer Dept. potentially tomorrow afternoon to discuss project. Waiting for confirmation from Contractor. MassDOT meeting in planning stages to re-discuss blasting permit. Fin Com and Board of Selectmen meetings last week (Mon & Tue). Voted at both meetings to support article which will be up for vote at the Town Meeting Saturday, 6/27. Steve preparing handouts (150 print outs) as recommended by the Town Manager to distribute at the meeting – will be a shorter version of the PowerPoints presented at last week's meeting. Luke and Steve P discussed presentation and addressed handout – Steve will present (brief and to the point) and they will field questions as needed after.

Other Items

- Barbara – Noted general engineering contracts sent to Frank. We're using the long form as this seems to be Legal Counsel's (K&P's) preference this year but same scope, budget, and hourly rates as last year. Did add a Project Engineer position to the rate chart at \$140/hour.

- Luke – Next meeting will be in person. Outside at the Water/Sewer Office. Maybe have it earlier than 6:30 – how about 5:30? All in favor of new time and no concerns with meeting outside for next meeting.
- Steve B – Vending Machine Update. Luke – phased opening by the state for businesses but this is a little different. Hold off a couple more weeks to see how the opening goes as could be an increase in cases. Also, Town Hall is currently not open and more of a no-man's land and nobody available to monitor at all, at least before someone at Town Hall would walk around as a daily check-in. Barbara – Indicted CDC recently released that contact is less of a concern than aerosol. Luke – sheds a little more light on the subject but still very concerned about contamination. Maybe table till next meeting and see how the reopening of restaurants goes which are highly regulated and hopefully don't falter.

Luke – Any additional water/sewer topics, discussion, etc.? None noted.

Next meeting will be Tuesday July 14th outdoor. Motion to adjourn (Steve B) at 7:18pm & seconded Luke.



TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

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BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD: June 23, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Tara McManus

Luke Grant
Luke Grant, Chairman

Steve Bishop
Steve Bishop, Clerk
