

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners
166 John Scott Blvd, Norton, MA 02766
January 12, 2021

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2021 JAN 26 A 9:08

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Commissioner Luke Grant, Commissioner Steve Bishop, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus and Steve Pedersen, DiPrete Engineering and Norton Media Center Director Jason Benjamin

Superintendent Updates

Sewer Pump Alarm Incident

Last Friday, January 8, 2021, there were a few calls that came in reporting sewer pump alarms sounding on King Philip Road. The line was jetted, and a clog was located. It consisted of mainly grease and other household waste. A notice was sent out to the residents when work was being performed. Another notice went out to the residents and was posted on the website after it was completed. This notice included a reminder list of what should and should not be dumped down drains or flushed down the toilets.

Lead & Copper Samplings

Superintendent Fournier reiterates the importance of these samples and the difficulty that comes when residents do not partake in the program. He reminds everyone that the homes selected are chosen because they meet the by Mass DEP criteria and that there are only a certain number of homes that are qualified and approved as test locations. He goes on to explain that the Mass DEP will send the town a NON, Notice of Noncompliance, if the town does not turn in the required number of samples. That violation would then be posted in the annual reports and on the town websites. These tests are also required in schools and daycare centers. There were two samples that were higher than the MCL in two of the schools. The schools have been closed for a long time and many of the fixtures are not in use due to the limited capacity allowed at the school. He goes on to explain that there are other factors that could have contributed to the higher results in the school tests. The repeat samples came back with a result that was lower than the MCL. The schools are aware and are willing to do whatever is necessary to fix the issues.

Rules & Regulations - Updates and Amendments

Fournier proposes changes and clarifications to the existing wording of the Sewer rules and Regulations a copy of the changes has been sent and presented to the Board by electronically. I would like to add the material specs as written.

We have a product with the brand name Mainline Adapt a Valve that we will want to be installed. This is the backflow device that is known as a Backwater Valve. This can be removed and cleaned through an "at grade" clean-out using a small tool which also allows for an access point to the homeowner's plumbing for a camera or jetting, if necessary. If this valve does become entrained with debris, it can be easily removed, replaced, serviced and reinstalled. This Mainline Adapt a Valve would be required in the gravity sewer main.

Sewer force main connections, the only pipe that would be allowed on the discharge side of the pump would be ENDOT HDPE Green sewer pipe. That is what is known to be virgin PE4710 resin or equivalent, but the equivalents would have to be approved by the Water & Sewer Dept. No pipes that are glued together would be allowed. Fournier asks that the board let him know if they are agreeable on the wording. Commissioner Luke Grant states that he is in agreement and thinks it is a step in the right direction. Commissioner Bishop also agrees to the changes in the wording. Superintendent asks for a motion to approve the addition to the sewer regulations (See Motion 1).

Flow Testing

A large commercial building on Leonard Street required testing of their new large fire pump. The fire test went perfectly and they flowed about 16,000 gallons of water in a matter of minutes. There were no complaints or discoloration from the test. Staff were on hand at the water treatment facility while the test was performed. This is the first large pump test performed this close to the new water treatment plant. We anticipated changes in the pressure and flow, but the plant addressed any and all changes and continued to pump accordingly.

Dirty Water Call

Over the holiday weekend of December 2020, there was a dirty water call received by the department. The technician was able to open one of the new hydrants in the woods on Pine Street as he was doing his well rounds. By the time he came back around, the water was running crystal clear. There have been no other additional complaints since that was done. Superintendent Fournier explains some of the possible causes and reiterates that the problem cleared up quickly.

Norton Media Center - Antenna Discussion

Jason Benjamin refers to a specs sheet that was sent to the board. He asks if there are any questions about the sizes of the equipment or the intended uses. Commissioner Luke Grant states that his only concern is making sure that the new equipment and frequency used does not interfere with the existing ones already in use on the tower. The current users are identified. Mr. Benjamin explains how his equipment and

frequency works and states that it will not harm or interfere with any of the other users. Superintendent Fournier answers Mr. Benjamin's questions about tank schematics and the possible places to install the equipment. The superintendent asks what the power source needs would be. There is discussion about possible power sources that may be accessible. It is noted that this is a temporary situation, as of right now. Commissioner Luke Grant states that everything seems to be in order with installing the equipment. He says that Norton Media can proceed with this project on a temporary basis if there is no objection from the rest of the board. Commissioner Bishop states that he agrees with proceeding on a temporary basis. Commissioner Grant states that the location of the proposed antenna would have to be adjusted if there is interference in the initial phase of the trial period. Mr. Benjamin is asked what the next steps are to the process. He states that after getting the board's approval, they can go out and purchase the equipment and stage it at ground level to do testing. This ensures that the equipment is communicating with everything else. Then, they will find a safe way to install the equipment, possibly with the help of one of other town departments. Commissioner Grant brings up the idea of installing it on the railing of the catwalk rather than installing it on the tank. Mr. Benjamin states that the equipment is about one foot by one foot in size and does not need much space.

DiPrete Engineering - 195 Mansfield Avenue Project

DiPrete Engineering is currently in works to build a town supported 40B project. This is a four-story building with 100 rental units. They are asking for a full or partial waiver on their connection fees. Joining the meeting for this agenda item tonight is Brandon Carr from DiPrete Engineering, Jason Kambitsis from AR Building (project developer) and Peter Freeman as DiPrete Engineering's attorney at law. Brandon Carr begins by briefly describing the structure and explains that they are in the final stages of wrapping up with the Conservation Board of Appeals. He states that a question about water and sewer connection fees came up during that process and that is why they have asked to be heard at tonight's meeting. He explains what size and types of connections they have in the plans. He states that 25% of the units are affordable under the 40B status and that in other similar 40B projects, in other municipalities, there has been some reduction or waiving of their connection fees for the water and sewer departments. He asks for the Norton Water & Sewer Department to consider doing the same.

Commissioner Grant states that his issue would be that the increased density that comes from the 40B permit gives DiPrete an advantage and that even if it were a standard development, the fee would be the same. Commissioner Grant states that in his opinion, the fee is the fee. Commissioner Grant then asks Superintendent Fournier if there has been any peer review done by Weston & Sampson with regard to the 2-inch domestic service feed being used for 100 units with a 6-inch fire sprinkler feed. The

superintendent says he would have to review some of the other buildings in town that have similar set up to see if a 2-inch feed is going to suffice, more than likely it will need to be larger than the proposed 2-inch size. Mr. Carr from DiPrete states that he would have no problem changing the proposed 2-inch feed to a 4-inch if that is what is required and notes that it would raise the connection fees a little bit. Commissioner Grant reiterates what the purpose of the connection fee is and that this project would not improve the town's infrastructure, so that there would be reason for a reduction in the fees for this project. Peter Freeman, attorney-at-law for DiPrete Engineering notes that he has worked on a few other 40B projects that have been completed in Norton and reminds the board that this is a local initiative project which is supported by the selectmen. He identifies a few other similar projects that did receive reductions in fees. He then states that they do aim to be in total compliance with everything and are open to any suggestions. Jason Kambitsis from AR Building notes that while the project will not be making a huge amount of improvements, it is worth noting that it will also not be taking a lot of usage. In hopes of appealing to the board, he notes that it will be bringing many rate-payers to this piece of land that only had one rate-payer before this project. He states that it is a standard practice to receive a reduction in fees for these 40B projects. Peter Freeman reiterates that they are only asking for a reduction in the sewer connection fees and do not take issue with the water fees. He also clarifies that they are not looking for any reductions in the user fees once the building is up and operational, and that the rate-payers would be paying the regular rates. Commissioner Grant states that he understands the request for reduction, but the connection fees will not be reduced for this project and that the fees will be as written in the Rules & Regulations. He does note that the board would be happy to have the consulting engineers of Weston & Sampson review the project plans and numbers to make sure it is adequate if DiPrete engineering wants. He notes that Superintendent Frank Fournier is the point person on this topic.

Weston & Sampson: Steve Pedersen - Sewer Project Updates

West Main Street Sewer Project

Since the last update, the building locks have been replaced with the town's key system and some calibration work was performed on the flow meter. There will need to be a final calibration once there is wastewater because the meter will react differently in clean water as opposed to wastewater with solids in it. There have been a few developments since the last meeting. The Christmas Day storm event caused a leak in the roof at the station. It has been looked at and diagnosed as being caused by the stacks from the generator that penetrates the roof. The problem has been addressed and repaired. The other problem that has been identified is some storm run-off that is coming over the hatch of the wet-well was actually getting into the wet-well. He states

that he is working with a contractor to address that issue. This issue was noticed by a rise in the water level during the storm when no water was to be coming into the station. He assures the board that the issue is currently being addressed and will be fixed shortly. Also, in the works is finalizing the compilation of all of the O&M manuals into one comprehensive volume for the operators of the station. They should have that turned into the town by the end of January 2021. With all of these developments and items completed, the contractor has made a request for substantial completion. It is the recommendation of Weston & Sampson that the town acknowledge substantial completion which is beneficial occupancy and that the system is ready for use to start accepting flows. There is a monetized punch-list of work that still needs to be finished included in with the substantial completion acknowledgement. This includes remedying the in-flow at the wet-well hatch and some spring items such as seeding. They are items that did not get done before winter hit the area. They will do those once the weather permits and also some surface restoration that they need to address. The final fill and overlay are also to be done in the spring. He explains how the change in retainage will occur now that there is substantial completion. The financial needs of the seven punch-list items is discussed briefly. Steve Pedersen notes that the Housing Authority is eager to connect to the system and that they have a contractor ready to schedule the work to be done whenever they get the go-ahead. A formal vote is made regarding substantial completion of the Rocchio sewer main (See Vote 1). Mr. Pedersen mentions that he sent a suggested letter in the packet to go with the monetized punch-list for Rocchio.

Financial Updates

Steve Pedersen brings up the previous discussion about putting in a couple of reimbursement requests with the housing authority and the monies they committed to the project. They have received and paid their final invoice. He notes that they are now paid up to the amount that they committed to the project. This ends up at about \$1.8 million, which is their connection fee and their contribution to the construction of the project. At this point all monies agreed upon have been paid and forwarded to the town's finance department. These are being used to pay bills as they come in for payment.

Another SRF reimbursement request has been prepared, and that money was wired into the account earlier in the week. To date, the town has received about \$4 million in reimbursements through the SRF loan. There will be about another \$500,000 in requests of which a lot is the contractor's retainage, but also is for the final paving that is to be done in the spring. Steve gives some background and extra detail about SRF loans and how the monies are collected and used.

School Connections to Sewer

Now that the schools are connected to the sewer system, they will be paying their bills. There is some concern that there is extraneous flow of storm water or infiltration. It did exist in the system before. They are working with the schools to help them identify what those flows are and how to get those out of the system. He discusses the billing and how it will be determined with respect to the fact that they are the only ones connected at this time. He notes that there is an idea of installing a meter at Yelle to keep a reading of just the school usage for billing purposes. The reason for this is that right now the Howard Street station is providing readings for just the schools, but once the housing authority connects to the system, it will read the total usage of both the schools and the housing authority. Superintendent Fournier states that having a meter directly on the discharge pipe from the pump station at the schools will ease the billing process when others begin tying into the system. This leaves no room for mathematical errors in billing. Commissioner Grant asks when the meter needs to be installed. Superintendent Fournier states that they will get it done rather quickly now. They are getting a quote to make sure it is within a reasonable amount. If so, they will be asking their frequently used specialist to acquire the meter and set up a date for installation. It is noted that determining the correct billing of the two large entities, if the housing authority does happen to connect before the meter is installed, will not be an issue. He explains how that would be calculated using meters at two stations.

Weston & Sampson: Tara McManus - Water Updates

Water Treatment Plant Updates

There was a contractor that was on site today from Methuen to conduct some survey work and work on their as-builts. They also planned to inspect the recycle tank again. We are waiting on their findings of that to figure out how to proceed. The intent is to seal it up and get the job done, but they may have to pause for the weather. They are trying to complete the punch-list. Another part of the list is the work on wells 5 and 6. The contractor is intent on completing the work on well 5, as far as the existing pump is concerned, working on repairs of the vibration. The initial inspection went well and so did the vibration analysis. We are also planning on work on flow testing the pumps just to confirm that all of the pumps in the treatment plant are working properly. It has been recently confirmed with the contractor that the sub-contractor did not perform tests that were indicated for about the last six months. These tests should be finished this week. The punch-list is being worked on by the contractor and there are some potential assurances being worked on that the work will be completed within the next few months, if not weeks. The contractor feels some of the items are better to be done in the spring when it is warmer weather.

Wells 5 & 6 Replacement

The focus has been on completing the casing installation for well 5. That was completed on December 30, 2020. The sieve analysis result for the well was just received by Weston & Sampson yesterday, January 11, 2021, and they are currently working on the data and working on the well to design the screen sizing. In the next week or so, they will start putting in an order for the new screen. Once it is sized, they will have a better idea of if it is an available size or if it is something that needs to be specially made for the well. The contractor will be on site tomorrow, January 13, 2021, to start site prep and then start drilling well 6. Everything is being performed in the timeframe that was expected in the planning. A report on the casing size needed is expected within the next couple of weeks. See Motion 2.

Motions/ Votes (in order of occurrence)

Motion 1: Rules & Regulations - Updates & Amendments

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to approve the addition to the sewer regulations language as discussed.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Grant - Aye.

Commissioner Bishop - Aye.

Motion is approved and takes effect immediately.

Vote 1: Rocchio Construction - Substantial Completion

Commissioner Luke Grant calls for a formal vote of all in favor of substantial completion for the segment of the Rocchio sewer main.

Commissioner Bishop calls for all in favor.

Commissioner Grant replies Aye.

Commissioner Bishop concurs.

Result of vote: Substantial completion is met and Rocchio will be informed of the decision.

Motion 2: Meeting Adjournment

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in Favor: Commissioner Bishop - aye.

Commissioner Grant - aye.

Motion is approved.

Meeting is adjourned at 6:42pm.

Next meeting: January 26, 2021



TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

P.O. Box 1168 Norton, Massachusetts 02766

Tel. (508) 285-0280 Fax (508) 285-0298

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD: 1/12/2001

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Nye Brown
Victoria Nye Brown

Luke Grant
Luke Grant, Chairman

Steve Bishop
Steve Bishop, Clerk
