

**Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners**  
**166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA 02766**  
**February 25, 2021**

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2021 MAR -9 AM 9:33

**Meeting called to order at 5:48pm.**

**Attendance:** Superintendent Frank Fournier, Commissioner Luke Grant, Commissioner Steve Bishop, Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen and Tara McManus

**Moment of Silence:** The Chairman of the Board, Commissioner Luke Grant calls for a moment of silence to recognize all of the lives lost, people suffering and the problems that this pandemic has caused.

### **Superintendent Updates**

#### **Flow Testing**

The previously discussed letter was sent out to owners of properties with fire suppression systems and companies that frequently work in Norton that informs them that they are required to coordinate their flows with the water department in order to avoid any potential fines. This letter generated many phone calls stating they were unaware of the regulations. Most have been performing their tamper switch tests and their flow switch tests which require using water pumped through the drain line on the system which would indicate a simulated flow of a fire event. Many of the conversations ended with companies stating they will be scheduling their testing with the department. There is a fee now implemented, based on a similar test already set with a fee. The companies will not need to post in the newspaper that they are performing the work for these flow testing's. The superintendent explains the multiple levels of impact that being involved in these tests will have in the town and on the system. Posting on the town website and Norton Media Center are required in order to notify people in the immediate area of the possibility of small local impacts. Any impacts will be handled quickly due to the department staff being on hand at each test.

#### **Mansfield**

The location being discussed is on the end of Reservoir Street near 495. When 495 was built, a section of Mansfield residents was cut off to utilities from Mansfield. They are being supplied by Norton utilities. As a result, Mansfield has requested a few mark outs and is looking for infrastructure plans for the areas where they have Mansfield residents that are supplied by Norton Water and Sewer. They may possibly be looking to make a few lots buildable, so there will be some talk soon about how to extend the water mains and bringing water service into the new homes to be built. The superintendent points out that there could be a possible issue with recoupment of any unpaid Norton Water bills by Mansfield residents. A lien would be placed on the property in the event of a Norton resident having unpaid bills. This would not be applicable to a Mansfield resident using Norton services. Superintendent Fournier has sent a letter to the Mansfield engineer with regard to this concern and hopes to hear back soon.



Commissioner Luke Grant says that idea is to have the new service customers post a bond for the possibility of non-payment. He then brings up a MOA, memorandum of agreement, between the two municipalities. He then describes the details of what he wants involved in the MOA. He then discusses specific actions for certain properties with extremely unpaid bills.

#### **Elevated Tank / Cell Provider Upgrades**

We now have a second cell provider requesting to perform similar upgrades. The same coverage was requested of this cell provider as the previous company. This is a \$2 million blanket coverage that lists the Town of Norton and the Norton Water Department on their certificate of commercial insurance. They have provided a copy of that and copies of the scaffolding subcontractor's insurance paperwork. He asks if the board has any further requests of the companies or if they would like to now give him permission to sign the letter authorizing the contractor to proceed. They are looking to begin March 1, 2021 and be done and gone by the 18th of March 2021. Commissioner Grant and Commissioner Bishop both agree that they are satisfied and have no further requests of the companies. Commissioner Grant says that there is no need for another motion as this is the same situation as with the last cell provider. He tells Superintendent Fournier to sign the letter and let the work commence. He then requests that a person from the department be sent by the location to check for trash, debris, access, parking and more today. Superintendent Fournier confirms it will be handled accordingly.

#### **40B Project at 253 Mansfield Avenue**

The developer has sent the department a hard copy of their proposed plans for that property, and are ready to move ahead with them. They are now going to modify their plans based on some of the "best interest" changes that Superintendent Fournier suggested. They will be sending a pdf soon and the hard copy will arrive shortly after. They want to come before the board to present at one of the upcoming meetings. They have presented to the Zoning Board with a Zoom or display-based scenario to present. He asks the board members if they have the capabilities to do a zoom-type meeting with the developer in order to visually see the material. Commissioner Bishop states he can do that type of meeting. Commissioner Grant states that he wants to see and review hard copies and then discuss the topic further. Superintendent Fournier agrees with Commissioner Grant and states that he would prefer to have hard copies in-hand to review first instead of the presentation.

#### **Weston & Sampson Updates**

##### **Steve Pedersen - Sewer**

##### **West Main Street**

The most recent SRF Reimbursement has now been received since the last meeting. All of the bills that have come in have been paid. He brings up the topic of managing the project debt. He explains that the total SRF Loan will be about \$4.6 million and then there is local borrowing for ineligible costs of design and things not covered by the SRF which are prior to going to construction. That totals about \$350,000.00. The SRF loan is closing and payments will start coming due in July and January of each year. The school will be sharing the cost based on the



improvements that the project benefited them. He states that the sewer betterment assessments are going to need to be issued so that money can be collected and, in the account, that the loan payments will be coming from. He brings up that the use of APN payments could possibly be used for these loans at town meetings. He suggests looking into that and how it impacts the storm budget. He states that there is a meeting scheduled with the town manager and the finance department for this Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and reminds the board what topics are to be discussed at the meeting. It is noted that it will be posted as a meeting.

### **Cobb Street**

Steve Pedersen requests a meeting with Superintendent Fournier to review the plans that have been submitted. The main topic of discussion would be mitigating the station shut-down for a limited period of time.

### **Tara McManus - Water**

#### **Water Treatment Plant**

The biggest outstanding item with this project is the recycle tank. The plan was to have work done last week but the weather has not allowed that to happen. She explains how the cold exterior and warm interior are causing condensation that is hindering the work being performed. They are working on eliminating the condensation with heaters, and it is now under control. The paint delivery was delayed, but the workers were able to get into the tank and start the coating work today. They plan on completing the coating between today and tomorrow. The curing time will be three to seven days, depending on the weather and temperatures. The hope is that the tank will be filled and tested by the end of next week. She notes that this is a new waterproofing contractor that they have worked with before. The contractor expects to get the work done properly in this first try and does not expect to have any unforeseen issues or delays.

#### **Wells 5 & 6**

The contractor is now drilling replacement well 6A. The 48-inch casing is currently being completed as they just welded the last piece on that casing. The clay layer that they are drilling through now has slowed the progress and they are bringing in a consult to see about expediting things. There are about 2 weeks remaining on this portion of the project, but it is dependent on how quickly they can get through the clay layer. After that is done, they will move onto the 36-inch casing. The delivery of the screen for replacement well 5A has been delayed because of the nationwide weather issues. They are pausing work on well 5A until the screen arrives. They continue to work on well 6A.

#### **AWIA (Americans Water Infrastructure Act)**

This is a requirement of the federal EPA. Tara McManus states that she has a meeting scheduled with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of the Norton Water and Sewer Department on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the list of requirements and review exactly what the project entails. She goes on to detail the topics to be discussed at that meeting to plan for the next 10 months of work to be done.

**Meeting Adjournment Motion**

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Grant - aye.

Commissioner Bishop - aye.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:26pm.**

**Next Meeting March 9, 2021 @ 5:30pm.**





# TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

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BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD: 2/25/01

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Nye Brown  
Victoria Nye Brown

Luke Grant  
Luke Grant, Chairman

Steve Bishop  
Steve Bishop, Clerk

  

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