

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

2021 DEC 13 AM 10:18

166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA 02766

October 26, 2021

Meeting called to order at

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop; Commissioner Chairman Steve Bishop, Commissioner member James Jardin, Weston & Sampson's Steve Pederson & Tara McManus (call in)

Superintendent Updates: Water

- Frank discusses some complaints that came in regarding water quality issues. This particular spot where the complaints were coming from have not had any complaints for quite some time
- One of the techs responded to the complaints and found a fire suppression company performing unauthorized sprinkler flow tests
- The tech that responded to the call shut the sprinkler tests down, explained the problem with their actions, explained our rule and regulations and the procedures that they must follow
- The tech performing the unauthorized sprinkler test told the water/sewer tech that he had the "all clear" from the management property to be running the sprinkler tests
- This occurred on Godfrey Drive
- Multiple locations had the sprinkler lines dumped and flushed
- Discussion on what can be done moving forward to try to avoid this problem in the future, letters from the Board being sent out to customers. Frank explains that a second round of notification letters has been sent out.
- Discussion on how frequently these places are testing their sprinklers and how it can vary from place to place depending on insurance regulations and fire department requirements
- Discussion on imposing fines for people that do not follow the proper protocol for flushing sprinkler systems
- Frank has discussed with John about going to local locations to hand out reminders and proper procedures in addition to mailing out copies
- Frank did speak to the gentleman in charge of the property on Godfrey Drive and the company that performed the test that day on a three-way conference call. According to what was explained to Frank, the company originally responded to the location on Godfrey Drive because they had a failed back flow device. Norton's independent tester went out and tested it, the device failed, the people in charge of that location were notified. They received a 14-day notice to repair and replace from us, they contacted their

normal fire suppression repair company, and were given an expensive estimate to repair the issue. The person in charge of the Godfrey Drive location then reached out to other companies to find a better price. When the company went to fix the device, they noticed some particles in there and the first course of action was to flush the lines

- Had Frank and John known that this company was going to be performing the sprinkler tests that day they could have notified town residents through the online platform and hopefully reduced the number of complaints because people would have been expecting possible disturbances
- Frank has been working with the Town of Mansfield's contractor who was hired to extend the water mains on two of the side roads off of Reservoir Street in the grove area
- Each water main passed the pressure test and Frank recently received copies of the sanitary sampling that was done, both had passed. They are both now active to our distribution system
- The fire department was notified of that a new fire hydrant that was installed as part of this water main project. The new fire hydrant was added at the end of Azalea Road
- The original fire hydrant on Barberry Road was moved a few hundred feet to the "new" end of Barberry
- **Flow Testing-**
- There are two flow tests scheduled. Both are for the Norton School Department; their fire suppression company is going to come out to perform each. First will be a Fire Pump Test at the Middle School. Notices were posted for each test.
- Once that test is done, they will move to the High School and perform a smaller fire sprinkler flow test

Sewer

- Frank and Steve have discussed the adjustment to the sewer connection fees. Typically, after the last project has been completed the sewer connection fee cost, if its not the same already for the town from the previous project, that it would be changed to match that rate
- The last time the fees were changed was back in 2015
- In order to change the rates a public hearing is required, along with a post in the local newspaper
- Discussion on how the public hearing could happen within one of the water/sewer meetings
- Discussion on where the connection fees come from, how they differ, how they can be changed, and which residents are affected by what fees, and what options residents have for loans
- The sewer connection fee is tied to the most recent betterment
- There was a study done a while back by the Abrahams, they amount they came up with the \$35.00/gallon, and based on title V @ 110gal/bedroom x 3 bedroom minimum = \$11,550. This rate study was done to establish the initial connection fee

- Going forward the rate should be tied to the most recent betterment
- At some point the regulations need to be modified to change the Winnecunnet betterment to the West Main Street betterment and the connection fee goes up. The new connection fee would be \$16,000
- Discussion on everything that is involved with a rate study
- That is how the most recent water rate increase was determined, if the water/sewer did not act and do something by the time 2021 came around there were not going to be enough retained earnings to keep the water/sewer's minimum amount
- Discussion on how the rate increases were implemented
- Discussion on when the sewer became enterprise
- Discussion on removal of solids (PFAS) from wastewater and forever chemicals and the cost of appropriately handling them
- Frank, John, and the Town Manager have found a person to fill the Office Administrator position

Weston & Sampson updates: Tara McManus

- Well 6 pumping test approval application was submitted to DEP
- 72 day turn around for that application, hoping it will be less since well 5 and well 6 are very similar
- We have the CAD plans from our survey for White Street, we are going to start moving ahead and updating with the existing utility information to start that design
- Discussion on how likely it is that the application will be quicker than the 72 days

Steve Pederson

- On Cobb Street we have the shop drawing submittals, we are finalizing our review of the generator
- We expect a 175-kw generator, they are submitting on a bigger generator. Probably not going to be an issue but need to make sure all the wiring at the station is sufficient for that
- Frank, Steve, and Tara talked about some potential projects
- Need to put contracts together for Holly Road and Knollwood
- Discussion on what upgrades have already occurred and what upgrades are still needed
- Frank started the bid process for the generator for Holly Road/Knollwood in house about 6-8 months ago. The delay for people to come out and give us quotes was so long that by the time Frank had a third quote the first quote was out of date
- Frank said they had some very good numbers with the original quotes but by the time he went back to the first quote the price had increased
- By going over \$50,000 it requires a sealed bid process, because of that all three quotes that Frank got are basically no good
- Discussion on where the funds will come from for this generator (federal money)

123 Project – West Main street

- Frank had a meeting in the field, discussed a few of the items that were left off of their initial estimate
- There is a cross tie connection at 495 which connects the 12-inch main and the old 6-inch main, looking at the plans which are some thing Frank had never seen until this project came around. Mass DOT is not required to submit as built plans to abutters, other utilities, etc.
- The plan shows potential for three water mains where it goes from state property at 495 to town property
- Frank had the contractor do a few test digs, there is a line valve on a 12-inch pipe, we assumed that the line was capped at the end, so they ended up putting a T across to a main in the middle, which must have been there originally, we moved over a little bit more and put another T across and attached to the opposite side of the road. That the loop that they created
- By shutting one valve it essentially shuts off those three little legs
- Going to cut and cap on the 12-inch side during one of the shutdowns
- Discussion on the possible additional work that could arise due to the unforeseen issues
- The new town hall will not be able to connect to the existing town hall water line
- The best possible way to do this and follow our regulations is to have the new line coming in loop to the highway department driveway, that would satisfy our loop requirement in the rules and regulations, that would provide a way to flush both of those systems out, and provide a little bit more volume
- Discussion about what else could be tied to that loop and the additional hydrants that could be installed
- The town is working with the current owner/operator of the north cottage program to see if they can come up with some type of agreement to deal with the potential sewer main issues
- Discussion on alternative options for the new main

Next meetings:

November 9, 2021

November 23, 2021

Meeting adjourned 6:40 pm



TOWN OF NORTON
BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS
166 JOHN SCOTT BLVD.
NORTON, MA 02766
(508) 285-0280

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

BOARD MEETING HELD: October 26, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Mason

[Signature]
Steve Bishop, Chairman

11-23-21
Date Approved

[Signature]
James Jardin, Clerk

11-23-21
Date Approved