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**Town of Norton
Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners
166 John Scott Blvd.
Norton, MA 02766
(508) 285-0280**

**Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2022**

I. Call to Order by Chair

The January 25, 2022 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held remotely (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6391519600> - Meeting ID: 639 151 9600; Phone: 646-558-8656 – Meeting ID: 639 151 9600) and was called to order at 5:31 pm, by Commissioner Steven Bishop, Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner James Jardin and Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Also in attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus, Office Administrator Brooke Durden and Select Board Vice Chair Michael Toole.

Pledge of Allegiance

II. Minutes

1. Minutes from the January 5, 2022 joint meeting with the Select Board were approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the minutes of the January 5th joint meeting of the Water/Sewer Commission and the Select Board. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bishop. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY. It is to be noted that Commissioner Steven Bernstein abstained from the vote as he was not a Commissioner at the January 5th meeting.

2. Minutes from the January 11, 2022 meeting were approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the minutes of the January 11th meeting of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Superintendent Updates

1. Updates: Two weeks ago, we started dealing with cold weather that we haven't seen in a couple of years; therefore, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop sent out a public reminder via Norton Alerts to residents to take necessary precautions to keep their water pipes and meters from freezing. The Water Department did respond to some calls for homeowner pipe issues caused from freezing. The Fire Department also responded to a couple of calls regarding broken fire sprinkler lines in commercial buildings.
2. Fire Suppression Testing: Last week, companies had scheduled to perform Sprinkler Flow Tests on Old Colony Rd but had to cancel due to weather. This week, Wheaton College was scheduled to perform close to 50 Sprinkler Flow Tests. They did complete a few flow tests today; however, most have been pushed off due to the weather.
3. Service Leaks: The operators at the Water Treatment facility noticed slightly higher than normal run times at the Treatment facility, as well as at the two remaining Wells indicating additional usage, which is uncommon this time of year. Therefore, technicians spent time investigating abandoned properties and those areas that are prone to freezing and failures in the past. A substantial leak was found at an abandoned home off of Cobb Street. Crews were able to get the shutoff valve repaired and shut the water off, which helped with run times at the Treatment facility; however, they still weren't back to normal. Another leak, that was undetected, surfaced on Monday morning around 5:20am at East Hodges Street causing no water/low water pressure in the Dean Street area. Superintendent Frank Fournier mentioned there has been some issues with that main within the past couple years due to different types of pipes. Commissioner Steven Bishop asked if that main was on the list to be replaced, as Superintendent Frank Fournier responded that it was on the back of the 20-year master plan; however, it is now being moved up and looked at to see if they can roll this project in with another to be paid for with County Money. Due to the pipe failure, there were changes in the normal water direction, as well as flow volume causing residents water to be affected throughout the Town. Therefore, a systematic flushing was done instead of a random one based off of call locations to help insure the best response for all residents. Although most residents were understanding about the situation, some did call regarding the operational procedures when something like this happens and voiced their concerns as to why they weren't notified earlier. Superintendent Frank Fournier went into detail about the procedures and what needs to be done to make sure safety is first.

IV. 196 Mansfield Ave – Water & Sewer Agreement Discussion

1. The representative for this location was unable to attend the meeting; however, discussion was still held between the Commissioners. Superintendent Frank Fournier mentioned that Paul DiGiuseppe, the Town Planner, has been in contact with Town Council regarding this property and a payment agreement is something that can be done. Commissioners Bishop and Jardin think an

agreement should be done and it will help benefit the Town. More discussion about this property will take place at a later date; however, Superintendent Frank Fournier will forward the Commissioners any documents that he receives from Paul or Town Council in the interim.

V. Michael Toole – Select Board Vice Chair – Discussion about proposed DPW Article

1. Commissioner Steven Bishop invited Select Board Vice Chair Michael Toole to discuss the proposed DPW Article. Michael Toole shared his screen and presented a PowerPoint about why Norton should become a DPW. His goal is to place the Water and Highway Departments under one umbrella and bring in an engineer to oversee future projects. Mr. Toole would also like to move the commission from an elected position to an appointed one. Superintendent Frank Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop and the Commissioners voiced some concerns that they had regarding the town moving to a DPW, as well as to an appointed board. Mr. Toole stated that he will be meeting with Town Manager Michael Yunits and Mansfield's Public Works Director Lee Azinheira to gather more information on how their DPW works and will then be in touch with the Commissioners.

VI. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates – Steve Pedersen & Tara McManus

Sewer – Steve Pedersen

1. Working with Developer at Turtle Crossing to get the Peer Review executed.
2. Superintendent Frank Fournier worked with the Town's Accountant to get the contract for Knollwood and Holly Road completed.
3. A PowerPoint presentation was put together to present at the Economic Development Commission meeting tonight regarding the Sewer Plan; however, the meeting got moved to February 9th.
4. At last meeting, the party from the Betterment Abatement that was denied requested some financial information. A summary of all the financial data was prepared in response and once a formal Public Records Request is received, that information will be forwarded.
5. Wrapping up scope of the Municipal Complex Sewer connection options that will be sent to Superintendent Frank Fournier for review.
6. Superintendent Frank Fournier received an email from MA DOT regarding a manhole on Taunton Ave that caused an issue with a plow. Weston and Sampson's Steve Pedersen will send some information over to show the final sign off by MA DOT on the work that was done in that area.
7. Superintendent Frank Fournier had some questions from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) meeting that was held earlier in the day regarding Wastewater Treatment Facility General Permits. Weston and Sampson's Steve Pedersen was unable to attend that meeting; however, will get more information from his team on what the meeting was about so he can help answer any questions.

8. Sewer System Overflow reporting procedures are coming out and the plan needs to be in place and in compliance July 1st.

Water – Tara McManus

9. White Street Water Main Improvements: Wrapping up design for review by the Water Department in the next three weeks then will go out for Bid.
10. Has been in touch with Town Manager Michael Yunits regarding how much County Funds are coming to Norton that can be used for Water and Sewer. If the funds are available, we would like to combine the South Worcester and East Hodges Street projects.
11. The test Well drilling was finished at Wells 1 and 4. Water quality sample came back for Well 4 which was below the MCL for Iron and Manganese. We are waiting on the water quality sample to come back for Well 1.
12. Bid opening was last Thursday for the Replacement Wells 5 and 6. Dankris won the bid at \$598,600. We are in the process of checking over the paperwork, and are hoping to award the bid sometime next week.

VII. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

1. Commissioner Steven Bishop brought up Black Hydrants around Town and the concerns that some residents had regarding them. Superintendent Frank Fournier mentioned that about 4 or 5 streets in Town have dry Water Mains in their developments. Hydrants were painted black to show that they had no water feeding through them and to help the Fire Department indicate that so they wouldn't waste time trying to hook up to it. The developments that have these hydrants are all on private wells; therefore, they are not connected to the Water and Sewer Department. Where the hydrants are located on Private Property, the Department does not want to remove them and become liable. The Commissioners agreed it would be up to the Development to take them out.

VIII. Bills & Correspondence

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

IX. Next Meeting: February 8th and February 22nd – Both Virtual

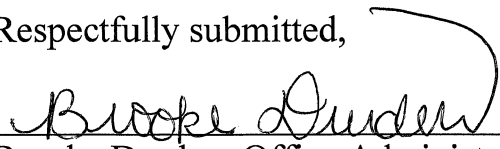
X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

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

BOARD MEETING HELD: January 25, 2022

Respectfully submitted,




Brooke Durden, Office Administrator



Steve Bishop, Chairman

2-8-22

Date Approved



James Jardin, Clerk

2-8-22

Date Approved



Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

2-8-22

Date Approved