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

Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2022

I. Call to Order by Chair

The October 11, 2022 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:30 pm, by Commissioner Steve Bishop, Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner James Jardin and Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Also in attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, and Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus & Steve Pedersen.

Pledge of Allegiance

II. Minutes

1. Minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting were approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the meeting minutes of the September 13, 2022 Town of Norton Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY. It is to be noted that Commissioner Steve Bishop abstained from the vote as he was not present at the September 13th meeting.

III. Superintendent Updates

1. Drought Update: As of Friday, October 7th, we have been upgraded to a Level 1 – Mild Drought Category. The Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) still recommend that Water use restrictions remain in place; however, it is up to us to evaluate our own situation and make changes to the limitations accordingly. Superintendent Frank Fournier mentioned that more than likely we will return to what is normal use meaning we would allow hand held hose use anytime, but as stated in our Rules and Regulations, any automatic type irrigation or sprinkler systems will not be allowed. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that since we are out of the Level 2 Drought, we will be doing some modified flushing.
2. Flow Testing: During the drought we were able to allow a few of the smaller flow tests; however, the larger tests or multiple smaller tests grouped together were on

hold until now. As we have done in the past, we will use the flow tests as part of the flushing program. Red Mill Village had a flow test scheduled for this week but are working on rescheduling to a later date that will coincide with the flushing as that area was not flushed during the last round. Wheaton College will be completing 47 scheduled flow tests during the week of November 14th. Crews will be on site to make sure everything runs smoothly.

3. Mass DEP Sanitary Survey: We received notice from Mass DEP in late September stating they were having trouble getting in touch with the Department to schedule the survey. Once we finally connected, it left about two and a half weeks to prepare for the Sanitary Survey. Superintendent Fournier gave a special thanks to Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, as well as the staff that was involved in gathering the appropriate information for the survey. The inspector was very pleased with the condition of all of our facilities, as well as our record keeping and training. She will also be looking into straightening out one of the issues we dealt with having old Well information still being published on our ASR (Annual Statistical Report).
4. Public Notifications: The public notice for the TTHM exceedance at Richardson Ave and Dean Street was mailed and posted as required. As in the past, this notice did generate some phone calls from residents. We continue to work with our engineers to compile rounds of sample information to report back to MASS DEP with recommendations for a solution. Commissioner James Jardin asked if we were still looking into replacing the Cottage Street Tank. Superintendent Frank Fournier responded that we are and there was actually a meeting this morning to discuss water age and areas of town where we are seeing increased TTHM numbers. The public notice for Manganese also went out, as it does quarterly due to Well 1 still being online.
5. Well 6: We received word that Dankris is delayed with their start date; however, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus will go into further detail.
6. High Bill: During the Quarterly Readings in December, a house on Juniper Rd was not able to get a reading. A card was left for the property owner and with no response, an estimated bill was generated based on usage from that quarter in the past two years. Another cycle of Quarterly Readings was done in March with the same results. Estimated bills are common due to people moving or not responding to cards; therefore, this situation did not raise any red flags. At some point, a gentleman who was doing work on the house noticed the red card and contacted the department with the meter reading. The reading provided was huge and without our crew being the ones to get the reading, we weren't able to generate a bill using that number. Shortly after that, we were able to gain access by the Building Department, as the home was condemned by the Town. Our foreman was able to verify that the meter was in place and what the reading was. Due to a leak in the house, and a ton of water going through the meter, this generated a huge bill. The Department has been working with the homeowner's attorney and will be sending the meter out to be tested for accuracy by an approved tester that meets AWWA specs. While discussing meter testing, Superintendent Fournier mentioned that per our Rules and Regulations all Commercial Meters, 1" and larger, need to be tested every two years for accuracy. This is something that

hasn't been enforced in the past; however, we will be sending notifications out to all Commercial accounts to let them know.

7. Dry Hydrants: As discussed at a previous meeting, a resident reached out stating their concerns about a hydrant that is bagged out of service on Wetherell Way. This hydrant has been painted red in the past leading to confusion and the belief that it was an active hydrant. Superintendent Frank Fournier understands the frustration of the residents in that area; however, he doesn't believe it should fall on the Water Department. Commissioner Bishop agreed and mentioned that the homes on Wetherell Way do not have services with us as they are on Wells; therefore, this type of information should be disclosed when the property is sold. As a courtesy, we can replace the nearest hydrant that is located on Newcomb Street. This hydrant does work; however, it is an older model so a newer one may flow better and give the residents a peace of mind. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked what our obligations are since Weatherall Way is a public way, rather than a private way. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that this is the only road that is Town accepted and has dry mains and a black fire hydrant; therefore, this situation does warrant a removal of the hydrant. Commissioner Bernstein, as well as Commissioner Steve Bishop and Commissioner James Jardin, believe we should remove the hydrant on Wetherell Way and move forward with Superintendent Fournier's recommendation of replacing the nearest hydrant on Newcomb St.

IV. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates

Sewer – Steve Pedersen

1. Holly Rd & Knollwood: The Bid Opening for the Generator Project took place on September 29th. We had three bidders, with the lowest bid coming in at around \$208,000. ARPA funds will be used for this this project and the \$225,000 estimate we put down will not be enough to fund everything. Therefore, we will have to discuss with the Town Manager to see what our options are in order to move forward. Once we figure that out, Weston & Sampson will complete the reference check on the Arden Group, who came in as the lowest bidder. The Bid is good for thirty days and due to a conflict with our next meeting date, the Commissioners decided to make a motion tonight.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to allow Superintendent Frank to issue an intent to award for the Knollwood and Holly Road Pump Station Improvement Projects to the Arden Group in the amount of \$207,875 pending ARPA funding availability and Weston & Sampson's recommendation to award. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Water – Tara McManus

2. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated the full replacement of AC piping along Newcomb Street will be part of our 20-year Improvement Plan.
3. South Worcester & East Hodges Street Area Water Main Project: The Surveyors submitted their CAD files to Weston & Sampson last week and we are hoping to have designs wrapped up and start Bidding by this Winter.
4. White Street: We would like to have a pre-construction meeting early next week, as the Contractor is planning to have the work done by end of October/early November.
5. Wells 5 & 6 Replacement Project: A pre-construction meeting was held on September 13th. The Contractor has been delayed due to another project, but provided a schedule update last week and they plan to be onsite next week to start excavating. The plan is to start at Well 6A and get that fully up and running by Thanksgiving, then wrap up Well 5A. The goal is to have everything up and running by mid-January.
6. Weston & Sampson continues to work with the Water Department on the Water Quality Study in regards to the TTHM formation study.

V. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

1. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked what the status of Island Brook was, as to which Superintendent Fournier responded that he has not heard from the developers. Commissioner James Jardin stated he was surprised nothing has been done as the Board had previously approved the laterals as they requested.
2. Commissioner Bishop also asked for an update on the leak at the Treatment Plant's tank. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that we are limited with options as Underwater Solutions is not providing much of a solution, and Dankris has not gotten back to us with an estimate to repair. Superintendent Fournier is working on getting a third quote, as well as working with the Primary Treatment Operator to see what the best option will be going forward.
3. Commissioner James Jardin mentioned an email that the Office Administer had sent in regards of abating interest on a bill due to a mistake made on the Town's side.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to abate the interest amount on the Water Bill for 104D Newcomb Street in the amount of \$5.82. Seconded by Commissioner Steve Bishop. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Commissioner Jardin also raised question on why the Finance Committee is not recommending Articles 4 & 5 for the Fall Town Meeting regarding the Water & Sewer Enterprise. Superintendent Fournier mentioned those articles are standard in case we have to ask for additional funds; however, where we do not need additional funding, there is no need to recommend these articles.

5. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked if we have a Sewer District, to which Superintendent Fournier responded that the Town of Norton is considered the district line.
6. Commissioner Bernstein also asked for an update on the I/I study that was done at the schools. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen responded that the report hasn't been finalized yet, but the only issues found were a couple of manhole covers needed to be replaced; therefore, there were no major inflow or infiltration problems found at the Yelle School.

VI. Bills & Correspondence

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

VII. Next Meeting: November 8th & November 22nd

VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 7:23pm. 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: October 11, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

Steve Bishop, Chairman

Date Approved

James Jardin
James Jardin, Clerk

11-7-22
Date Approved

Steven L Bernstein
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

11-7-22
Date Approved