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NORTON TOWN CLERK

2023 JAN 11 AM 11:05

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

**Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2022**

**I. Call to Order**

The December 13, 2022 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:32 pm, by Commissioner Steve 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 Tara McManus & Steve Pedersen, Turtle Crossing Representative Lou Tasiopilos, Permanent Building Committee Chair Jim Slattery and representatives for the Town Hall/Senior Center Ed Cifune from DBVW and Karen Crawford from VHB.

Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Minutes**

1. Minutes from the November 22, 2022 meeting were approved.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the November 22, 2022 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. Water Main Improvements: White Street at East Main has been completed, although it took about a week longer than they anticipated. Some delays were due to the Town being unable to fill Police details, as well as majority of their crew coming down with Covid. Also, a few changes to the original design plans were made because of what was found in the ground was different than what was on other plans from a previous contractor. It was believed to be a full mechanical tee at the entrance of Hastings Way; however, it ended up being a tapping sleeve valve. Therefore, this caused an additional shutdown and materials needed. An emergency shutdown also had to take place due to the valve being on the wrong side of the pipe

and not being able to shut down just Hastings Way. We have since modified our in-house plans.

2. Capital Budget: As mentioned at the previous meeting, the Capital Budget is due by Monday. We have some rough numbers but are still waiting on some estimates for a vehicle replacement. We have put in a lot of money to fix a couple trucks for inspection and although they did pass, we were told by the inspector that they would probably not be on the road next year due to the rust. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked how many trucks do we physically need, as to which Superintendent Fournier responded that we need three. We have found and ordered a truck that was beneath the budget. We are unsure when we will receive it as it needs to be painted. We are also looking to re-build one of the trucks in house. For the next Capital Budget we are putting in for a pickup truck utility body with a plow which is likely to cost around \$85,000 - \$100,000. Another item we are looking to purchase is a mini excavator. In order to move forward with our master plan, we will start to target the smaller roads that need upgrades. We are looking to replace the main down on Peter Street and Stephen Street.
3. Well Replacement Projects: We still do not have funding in place yet for Well 4; therefore, Superintendent Fournier mentioned that we should have an article in place at Town Meeting for the replacement cost for Well 4.

#### **IV. Campanelli Freetown Land LLC – Vote to Release All Funds**

1. Based on the original agreement with Campanelli Freetown Land LLC, a \$20,000 Performance Bond was held in an interest-bearing account by the Town. Where the Commissioners approved the Assignment and Assumption Agreement between Campanelli Freetown Land LLC and PGA Tour Charities Inc. at the last meeting, they will now need to approve to release the funds to Campanelli Freetown Land LLC.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to release the performance bond account with Bristol County Savings Bank to Campanelli Freetown Land LLC – One Arnold Palmer Mansfield Ave in the amount of \$20,000 plus any interest received until the funds are released. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **V. Turtle Crossing Discussion**

1. Commissioner Steve Bishop invited Turtle Crossing's Representative Lou Tasiopoilos to begin discussion. Unfortunately, the Engineer for Turtle Crossing was not going to make it due to an accident that occurred on the way; therefore, Mr. Tasiopoilos asked the Commissioners if he could come back at the next meeting. In the meantime, he will send Superintendent Fournier the plans for review. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked where they were in the process, as to which Mr. Tasiopoilos responded that the cross cutting is done; however, they are still waiting on one utility company to make improvements to the water line.

## **VI. Permanent Building Committee Chair Jim Slattery**

1. Permanent Building Committee's Chair, Jim Slattery, came before the Board to discuss the new Town Hall and Senior Center and some of the concerns the Permanent Building Committee have. He began discussion by stating that he thinks there is a lack of communication between the Boards, and he is here tonight to try and fix that. Mr. Slattery stated his role is to represent the Tax Payers in Town and to make sure the buildings don't go way over budget. The longer the project gets delayed, the more likely the product price will go up and every week the building is delayed, it costs the Town more money. Mr. Slattery mentioned that the Permanent Building Committee was upset that they are being forced to have a water loop for the new Town Hall, which would be an additional cost, and the Police Department did not need one. Superintendent Fournier clarified that the Police Department is a short distance to the main, where the new Town Hall is more set back. One of the suggestions Superintendent Fournier made was to have the water loop tie into Miller Terrace. Another additional cost was from the Architect who stated that the new Town Hall, as well as the new Senior Center, would need to have a Domestic Water Treatment installed due to occupants of the buildings complaining about the water quality. Mr. Slattery wanted to know why this would be necessary when the Town spent millions of dollars on a new Treatment Plant that should help the water quality throughout the whole town. Assistant Superintendent John Harrop responded that the current Town Hall is an old building with an old infrastructure; however, they hardly receive complaints about water in that area. Assistant Harrop mentioned he doesn't see a need for a filter; however, if the Architects wanted to put something in, Assistant Superintendent Harrop would recommend a simple filter. Assistant Superintendent Harrop also stated that neither him, nor Superintendent Fournier, were aware that the Permanent Building Committee existed until within the last week, but wanted to make it known that they are very open to any communication moving forward. Commissioner Bishop agreed with Assistant Superintendent Harrop and asked if they would be seeing some plans as to which Superintendent Fournier responded that plans will be coming later. Mr. Slattery thanked the Board for meeting with him and stated he will be in touch.

## **VII. Town Hall/Senior Center Discussion**

1. Commissioner Steve Bishop invited Karen Crawford from VHB and Ed Cifune from DBVW to discuss plans for the new Town Hall and Senior/Community Center. The proposal for the Senior/Community Center shows an 8-inch main coming in from the 12-inch main on Mansfield Ave, along with a 6-inch fire line and a 2-inch domestic. The Architect made comment that both buildings are fully sprinkled with wet systems. Due to the plans for the Senior/Community Center and everything that was presented, Superintendent Frank Fournier stated that it makes sense to not abandon the existing tap and to waive the loop requirement for this location. As previously discussed with Mr. Slattery, the water situation for the new Town Hall is pretty unique due to the location. The proposal for the new Town

Hall shows a 6-inch fire line and a 2-inch domestic, along with a loop connection to an existing main in the driveway by the Highway Department. After further review and discussion, the Board voted to approve both sets of plans. In addition, Superintendent Fournier wanted to make the Architects aware that the Board recently updated their regulations to approve the use of specific high density plastic pipe for mains.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the utility plans for the Norton Senior and Community Support Center plan numbered C4.01 dated 9/30/22. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the utility plans for water for the Norton Town Hall utility plan numbered C4.01 dated November 9, 2022. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Commissioner Steven Bernstein would like to know why the new Town Hall was moving forward with septic, rather than connecting to sewer. Mr. Cifune stated that in terms of timing, cost and within the purview of the general contract, it made sense to stay with septic. Superintendent Fournier stated his disappointment as this department found out they were not going to connect to sewer from a newspaper article. He stated his concern regarding the grant the Town received for planning and design for the municipal wastewater system at that location and hopes this decision doesn't affect that grant. Commissioner Bernstein also wanted to make comment that the Board does not think these buildings need a treatment system for the water. Mr. Cifune stated he would like to clarify that space was left in case it was necessary; however, they have stated numerous times that they are not aware of the water quality.

#### **VIII. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates**

##### **Tara McManus – Water**

1. Well 5 & 6 Replacement Project: We are closing in on Well 6 and put the new software in to move the project along. We could have DEP out there as early as the week of Christmas, but with the holidays it could be a little delayed. Pay Estimates 5 & 6 were presented to the Board for approval.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve Pay Estimate #6 for Wells 5 & 6 Replacement Projects from Weston & Sampson in the amount of \$145,153.82. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve Pay Estimate #5 for the Wells 5 & 6 Replacement Projects for Weston & Sampson in the amount of \$45,239. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. White Street: At this point, everything has been turned on and all of the services have been switched over; therefore, the Contractor is pretty much wrapped up for the Winter and they will head back out in the Spring/Summer to do the final paving.  
**Steve Pedersen – Sewer**
3. Holly Road/Knollwood: We are still waiting on the contracts to be finalized; however, it should be all set to be presented to the Board for the next meeting. Once the contracts are signed, we can then move forward with the Notice to Proceed.
4. Cobb Street: Nothing has changed since our last meeting and they still anticipate the delivery in early March. We started design for Phase Two, Wet Well Improvements.
5. Elm Street Sewer Design: Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen mentioned they are still moving forward with the grant and he submitted the Design Agreement today. Once we find out if everything gets approved, we should be ready to start construction by this time next year. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen stated that the schedule could potentially work with the new Town Hall; however, where it's not guaranteed, he understands why the Architects decided to move forward with Septic at this time but also thinks there is more room for discussion once time frames are put into place.
6. Norton Public Schools: A meeting was held with the schools to go over the report that was done by Weston & Sampson. A conceptual design will now be done to see if they can utilize the infrastructure out on 123 and get rid of the Treatment Plant at the Middle School.
7. Sewer Connection Fee: Assistant Superintendent John Harrop sent Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen the Sewer Regs to review and make some suggested revisions regarding the new Sewer Connection Fee.

#### **IX. Vote on New Sewer Regulations**

1. Assistant Superintendent John Harrop was informed by Sewer Tech, Howard, that there were some guidelines that needed to be added to the Town of Norton's Sewer Regulations in regards to Sewer Force Mains. After some discussion, a vote was taken to add the new guidelines to the Sewer Regulations.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin that effective December 13, 2022 the Norton Water/Sewer Department Sewer Tie-In Regulations stipulate that all customer discharge lines must be laid with a minimum depth of 4 ½ feet of cover and also stipulate that customer sewage discharge pumps must be connected and tested when pressure and leak testing discharge lines and also stipulate that the tie-in is not complete until sewer discharge pump has been installed and connected to the discharge line and tested. Seconded by**

**Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**X. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance**

1. Superintendent Frank Fournier mentioned a problem with receiving proper paperwork for the closing at 46 Newland St which created a delay with the new homeowner receiving their bill on time. Interest continued to accrue after the due date, therefore the Commissioners were asked to abate the interest.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to abate the interest amount on the Water/Sewer bill for 46 Newland Street in the amount of \$15.56. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Commissioner Steven Bernstein would like to know why there is need, other than paying bills, to meet more than once a month. Superintendent Fournier will look into this.

**XI. Bills & Correspondence**

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

**XII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

**XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 7:48pm. 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: December 13, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden  
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

Steve Bishop  
Steve Bishop, Chairman

1-10-23  
Date Approved

James Jardin  
James Jardin, Clerk

                      
Date Approved

Steven L Bernstein  
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

                      
Date Approved