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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 24, 2023**

I. Call to Order

The January 23, 2023 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:31 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, Office Administrator Brooke Durden, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus, and Kameron Campbell from DeCelle-Burke-Sala & Associates Inc.

Pledge of Allegiance

II. Minutes

1. Minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting were approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the meeting minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Superintendent Updates

1. System Flushing: As mentioned at a previous meeting, we began the strategic water main flushing. Everything has been going well and the water cleaned up twice as fast as it did before. Therefore, we put the flushing on hold to make sure that we didn't get to our destination prior to our scheduled time. This worked out well since Godfrey Drive was due for their Fire Suppression Testing, and we wouldn't have to have multiple locations throughout town flow water. The testing at Godfrey Drive will take three days, and once that is complete, we will start back up with the strategic water main flushing targeting our dead-ends. Superintendent Frank Fournier stated that they have already seen changes in the residuals and how amazing it was to see that much of an improvement in the system within only a

couple of months. Commissioner Bishop asked when we are scheduled to sample again. Superintendent Fournier replied that we have samples due in February and we will pull the bleeders off before then to make sure we have a representative sample as we don't take out samples during any high-volume flowing events because it is not a true sample of the distribution system.

2. Chemical Shortage: Carus suffered a large fire at their Illinois chemical plant, which seems to be the only plant that creates the Potassium products for all of the Water and Wastewater throughout the United States. We are able to use another brand; however, it doesn't run as well and clogs every 2-3 days. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that there have been talks about using Chlorine; however, using Chlorine would defeat the purpose of what we are trying to do to lower the TTHM's. Unfortunately, we have not heard of any time frames as to when this supplier will be back up and running. If we were to make changes to the chemicals used in the system, we would need to receive approval from Mass DEP, as well as send out a public notification to residents.
3. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that he has reached out to the Chair of the Permanent Building Committee, and is waiting to hear back, to see if they would be interested in holding a joint meeting to discuss the Municipal Sewer System.
4. Budget Update: There was a Department Head meeting this morning to discuss the General Operations for the FY24 budget. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that he was surprised that only a 2-3% increase was expected for salary, as the cost of living has gone up significantly over the past couple of years. He hopes the town will be willing to negotiate and not lose any employees due to low increases. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that they would like to add a position for Primary Sewer Operator. As of now, Howard is taking on that role; however, is not being compensated as he should.
5. Assistant Superintendent John Harrop stated that all of the Lead & Copper samples have come back. Unfortunately, we were late getting the reports to DEP as the Lab was delayed. Therefore, there is a possibility that we could receive a notice of noncompliance for late reporting.

IV. Peter Lavoie – Discussion of Proposed New Build at 192 Taunton Ave

1. Peter Lavoie was not present at the meeting; therefore, discussion was tabled.

V. Kameron Campbell – Discussion of Sewer Extension for Proposed Development at 0 Reservoir Street

1. Kameron Campbell from DeCelle-Burke-Sala & Associates Inc. came before the Board to discuss the possibility of extending the sewer for the proposed development at 0 Reservoir Street. They are proposing an 8-inch PVC sewer down to the last manhole on Reservoir Street located in front of Acre Road. Mr. Campbell would like to know the capacity of that pump that the manhole would feed too, as well as if they can do a private line in a public road. Commissioner James Jardin responded that the Board stopped allowing private lines in public roads. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that it has to be designed so it could be taken

over by the town utility and would have to provide connections to each property that is fronted by the new sewer. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that they could get the calculations from the Rumford Road Station to see the available capacity. Mr. Campbell stated they are gearing towards an E1 System that would be a force main and pump to the Rumford station during off peak hours. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked if the Rumford Road pump station was at capacity, to which Superintendent Fournier responded that it was close to capacity. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that although there is sewer availability, the Board would need a little more information in order to approve the extension. Assistant Superintendent Harrop mentioned that the main concern for Rumford Road is that the station is small. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked if there was room to expand the wet well, as to which Superintendent Fournier responded that they would have to put a second wet well in and would talk with Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen to see what the best option would be given the numbers provided. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked if they were making an improvement to our system, what would happen with the fees. Superintendent Fournier stated that it would depend on the cost of the improvement compared to the cost of the connections, typically the Board has always worked with those who have provided an infrastructure improvement, but that would be up to the current Board. After some further discussion, it was agreed upon to have Mr. Campbell come back at the next meeting.

VI. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates

Steve Pedersen - Sewer

1. No updates were provided on the sewer side, as nothing has changed since the last meeting.

Tara McManus - Water

2. Wells 5 & 6A: The project continues to advance and the pitless adapter, well pump, and vault have been installed. Once the startup and testing are done, as well having all of our paperwork, we will work with DEP on the approval process. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that there have been no issues and Well 6A is running well.
3. White Street: As discussed at the last meeting, the Contractor for the White Street Project is looking to be reimbursed for some extra unexpected costs and time spent on the project. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus has negotiated with the Contractor and has sent the Commissioners a draft change order recommending payment of \$15,000.00. Pay Estimate #1 was also presented to the Board for approval as Gravity Construction has completed all of the work excluding final pavement at this point.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the Change Order #1 for Gravity Construction in the amount of \$15,000.00 and allow Superintendent Frank to sign off on that. 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 #1 to Gravity Construction in the amount of \$279,555.22 and to allow Superintendent Frank to sign for it. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

4. Reilly Property: As requested at the previous meeting, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus presented the proposal for the analysis for the Reilly Property. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked for clarification on what the analysis entailed. Ms. McManus responded that it is just a site walk and the majority of the work will be done in office looking everything over to see if the site seems viable and if it would even be worth exploring below ground. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked if there was potential for a PFAS plant to be built at that site, to which Superintendent Fournier responded that we would typically build a site closest to the location of the elevated levels which is across town. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that although we have verbal approval to proceed on the Reilly Property, he thinks they are looking for a signed agreement. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that typically on private property there is just a letter of understanding on what will be done. Superintendent Fournier responded that he will reach back out to the Attorney for the Reilly Property to see what they would like in order to gain permission to walk on the property.

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the agreement with Weston & Sampson for New Source Investigation Study for the Reilly Property at Crane Street and Pine Street dated January 18, 2023 and approve Superintendent Frank to sign for it. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY

VII. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

1. Superintendent Fournier asked Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus about an email that he received from an agency asking municipalities to join the fight against EPA for changes in withdrawal permits. Ms. McManus responded that she will double check but she does not think we will be impacted. Commissioner Bishop would like to know exactly what is being proposed. Superintendent Fournier replied that they want to take back withdrawals, as to which Commissioner Bishop stated that is scary to think it could happen.
2. Commissioner Bernstein asked if there were any updates on Canoe River Overlook, formally known as Turtle Crossing. Superintendent Fournier responded that he has been in touch with Maria, the Director of Planning, and it still appears that the permit has expired and the extensions do not fit within the same timeframes. Commissioner Bernstein then gave some background information on the project and stated that he had reached out to the previous Director of Planning, Paul DiGiuseppe, who also made it clear their permit was expired. Commissioner Steve

Bishop mentioned that he assumed all permits were in place when they came before the Board and hopefully the developers can provide documents to show that they did get an extension on the permits. Superintendent Fournier stated that he will make sure to forward any updates he receives regarding this project.

VIII. Bills & Correspondence

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

IX. Next Meeting: February 14, 2023

1. Commissioner Bishop wanted to remind everyone that starting in February the Board will start to meet once a month.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 7:01pm. 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 24, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

SPB
Steve Bishop, Chairman

2-14-23
Date Approved

James Jardin, Clerk

Date Approved

Steven L Bernstein
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

2/14/23
Date Approved