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

**Meeting Minutes  
August 8, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

The August 8, 2023 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:30pm, 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 Steve Pedersen, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus, Rich Riccio from Field Engineering, and Nick Facendola from Level Design.

Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Minutes**

1. Minutes from the June 14, 2023 and July 11, 2023 meetings were approved.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the June 14, 2023 and the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes of the Town of Norton Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. Discussion with Developer from Map 25 Lot 93**

1. Rich Riccio from Field Engineering came before the Board to discuss options to use the unfinished water main on South Washington Street to supply water to a vacant parcel at Map 25 Lot 93. This parcel is located right at the Taunton line behind the Myles Standish Industrial Park heading towards Commerce Way. Before moving forward, the Designer wanted to see if the Water/Sewer Commission would be okay with them using the existing 12" water main on South Washington Street to bring water down to the site, rather than putting a new one in on Commerce Way. The designer is aware that if they were to use the existing main, it would need to be tested and they would need to bring it up to spec with regards to hydrants and gate valves. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked if the existing main was ductile, to which

Superintendent Frank Fournier stated that it was. Superintendent Fournier also stated that this main was installed around 2006 and the Department was onsite doing inspections, as we expected this to be used as a transmission water main for our connection to the Aquaria De-Sal water plant in Taunton; however, we received denial from Mass Highway allowing the installation of the connecting water main down a portion of 495. There is a section of the main that is missing, and although the ends were capped, an investigative dig would have to be done to determine if any sediments have gotten in. After some more discussion, the Commissioners agreed to allow the use of the existing water main, if it was viable. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked what the building would be, to which Mr. Riccio stated they currently do not have a tenant but they are proposing a 55,000 square foot building with half being industrial and half being warehouse with an associated office.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve field engineering for Adventure Properties to go forward exploring using the old De-Sal 12-inch water main in South Washington Street. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **IV. Discussion with Developer from 0 Reservoir Street**

1. Nick Facendola from Level Design came before the Board to discuss utility connections for the proposed project at the property located at the intersection of Mansfield Ave and Reservoir Street, known as 0 Reservoir Street. The Developer is proposing three Apartment Buildings with a total of seventy-two units. The current site plans show a low-pressure sewer that would run down to the existing manhole near Elm Street, which would then go down to the Rumford Road pumping station. Superintendent Frank Fournier stated that the manhole on Elm Street would not suffice because the Rumford Road pumping station would need upgrades in order to handle the additional flow. An option would be to install a sewer force main down Reservoir Street and by-pass the smaller sewer station at Rumford Road and run it to the larger sewer station at Cobb Street. However, Superintendent Fournier stated that Mansfield Ave would be more beneficial for both the Developer, as well as for the Town. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen agreed and mentioned that adding a gravity sewer line down Mansfield Ave would go along with the comprehensive plan. Mr. Facendola stated that they have gone in front of the Planning Board and a lot of upset residents have attended those meetings to state their concern with being forced to tie into sewer. Superintendent Fournier stated that he has talked to Legal about this because he knows the article is very confusing. According to Legal, the connection is based off of the original funding of the utility, which in this case would be privately funded. Therefore, residents would only be mandated to tie into sewer if their septic failed. Mr. Facendola also asked if the Town would waive some of the fees due to the improvements being made for the Town. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen responded that if they were just going to tie into the sewer, the fees would be based off of Title IV; however, if they were going to be providing infrastructure improvements that benefits the Town, there is a lower rate.

## **V. Well #4 Discussion**

1. As mentioned at the previous meeting, we were still having pumping and water flow issues after cleaning Well 4. It was determined that the pump was bad and a new pump was ordered and replaced; however, although the flow improved it was still less than what it should have been. It was then discovered that there was a clog and the water main was full of iron and manganese sediment. After removing the sediment, we flushed the Well to waste which restored the flow rate and it is now running clear. Due to the iron and manganese, sediment could still build up in the future; therefore, we will work with the engineers and see if we can design either some type of blow-off system or a tee with a hydrant near the pitless adapter so backflushing can be performed.

## **VI. Superintendent Updates**

1. Fire Hydrant Maintenance: Fire hydrants are required to have 6ft of clearance to allow them to be spotted from a distance, as well as allow them to be operated and maintained without any issues. Throughout the year, but particularly in the Summer, our staff performs maintenance on the fire hydrants and have noticed some hydrants with fences or bushes right up against them. Therefore, we will be sending out notices to those residents to give them an opportunity to relocate them before our department, or the Fire Department does.
2. Distribution System Flushing: We have received some calls from residents noticing water flowing from hydrants. Superintendent Frank Fournier mentioned that part of the routine fire hydrant maintenance, technicians go out and run the hydrants at a low volume to help turn the water over at our dead-end water mains.
3. Fire Pump Testing: We have multiple Fire Pump Tests that will take place this month. Fire Pump Tests that have had no impact on the system in the past will be performed during the daytime. These tests include 202 South Washington Street that will take place on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am and 222 Mansfield Ave on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am. The two Fire Pump Tests that are scheduled at 308 and 308R East Main Street will take place on August 24<sup>th</sup> at 8pm as previous flow events at this location have created a disturbance in the system. A Fire Hydrant Flow Test will take place on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm in the area of 236 West Main Street to determine what size Fire Suppression will be required for the proposed building at that location. Superintendent Fournier stated that all Pump Tests are posted on the Town website; however, there may be some delays where the Technology Coordinator is away at a conference.
4. Balfour Farm: We just received updated plans for Balfour Farm this afternoon. The developers would like the cross-connection portion to be waived since it would serve no purpose to have a hydrant there because there will be no access roads where the mains are installed. Superintendent Frank Fournier stated that he would support this waiver as long as there are 3-way clusters at the end.
5. 0 Newcomb Street: Superintendent Frank Fournier stated that he spoke to a gentleman who owns 11 acres of land off of Newcomb Street and is interested in

building five duplexes on this land. Superintendent Fournier explained to the gentleman that if he wanted Town water, then a water main would need to be installed to service that many houses that far off the main road. As per the regulations, the water main would need to be looped and not dead ended. This gentleman would also like to know if the Board would allow him to connect to municipal sewer on Newland Street if he was able to get an easement for both the water loop and the sewer connection. Commissioner Steven Bernstein stated that he had to recuse himself due to the set of plans being designed by an engineering company that he works with. Commissioner James Jardin stated that if this gentleman can get permissions for the easement, he is satisfied with everything on our end; however, if the easement is denied then there would be no way for this property to have municipal sewer. Superintendent Fournier stated that this developer is in the very early stages and is not opposed to Wells and Septic systems; however, he would rather Town services.

6. Assistant Superintendent Update: Assistant Superintendent John Harrop stated that we are working on the budget and warrant articles for the October Town Meeting. Assistant Superintendent Harrop also mentioned that the F600 Dump Truck that was ordered back in December could be arriving by the end of this month.

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

### **Sewer- Steve Pedersen**

1. Cobb Street: We are still waiting to hear from Eversource on what needs to be done in order to connect the generator. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked if we still had the standby generator at that location, to which Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen responded that we did.
2. Knollwood/Holly Road: We are still waiting for the generators to be delivered at this site.
3. Cobb Street Phase II: The Pre-Construction meeting was held two weeks ago and the Bid Opening will be taking place this Thursday. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked how much the job is estimated to cost, to which Mr. Pedersen responded that it is estimated to cost \$250,000.00.
4. Elm Street Sewer Design: We are progressing in the design phase. Since we will not hear about the Grant Application regarding construction monies until October, we will wait to put in an article until next Town Meeting if needed.

### **Water- Tara McManus**

5. Wells 5 & 6: Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus met with EPA last week and they gave us approval to start the application process for the Auchlinloss funding. Everything has been online for months now with no issues. Pay Estimate #11 was presented to the Board for approval.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve Pay Estimate #11 to Dankris Builders for \$9,000.00. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. South Worcester & East Hodges Street Area Water Main Project: The Railroad Permit has been submitted; however, it was asked that it be sent to another Railroad company. The permit was resubmitted, and the new group seems to be more responsive. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that they have also submitted a permit to the Conservation Commission and will be attending their meeting Monday night.

#### **VIII. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance**

1. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked what the status of the new aerator was. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that he is still doing some research and has reached out to Weston & Sampson to see what their recommendations are.
2. Commissioner Bernstein also asked about the rate study. Superintendent Fournier stated that he reached out to Mark Abrahams and will need to coordinate with him what needs to be done on our end to provide him with enough information to complete the study.
3. With all of the rain we have had, Commissioner Bernstein asked if the demand was down. Superintendent Fournier stated that our levels are good and there is no drought to worry about at this point.
4. Commissioner James Jardin referred to an email that a resident sent stating he was unhappy with the outcome of his abatement request and would like to know if anything else would be done. Superintendent Fournier stated that he has not heard from that resident again and until we hear from him, we will continue to follow normal procedure with sending the bills.
5. Commissioner Jardin also asked if anyone knew what the commercial buildings going in on Old Colony Road were going to be and why they haven't come before the Board. Superintendent Fournier stated that he is unsure of what those buildings will be; however, they will be putting in Wells.

#### **IX. Bills & Correspondence**

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

#### **X. Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **XI. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 7:05pm. 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: August 8, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden  
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

[Signature]  
Steve Bishop, Chairman

9-27-23  
Date Approved

[Signature]  
James Jardin, Clerk

9-14-23  
Date Approved

Steven L Bernstein  
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

                      
Date Approved