

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2024 JAN 10 AM 11:39

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

**Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023**

I. Call to Order

The November 14, 2023 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:32pm, by Commissioner James Jardin, Acting Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Member(s) absent: Commissioner Steve Bishop. Also in attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, Office Administrator Brooke Durden, Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen and Tara McManus, and 0 Mansfield Ave's Representative Dan Campbell.

Pledge of Allegiance

II. Minutes

1. Minutes from the September 26, 2023 meeting were approved.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein to approve the September 26, 2023 Board of Water Commissioner minutes. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

III. Sher-Corp – 0 Eddy Street

1. Representatives for Sher-Corp were going to come before the Commissioners tonight; however, they also had to attend the Planning Board meeting. They are looking to build four or five duplexes off of a property that runs beside the railroad tracks on Route 140. The road leading into the property is narrow and would not be able to fit the water mains, as well as other utilities; therefore, Sher-Corp would like to know if the Commissioners would waive the loop requirement that is listed as part of our Rule and Regulations. Superintendent Fournier stated that this may not happen at all and they will go with Wells, but they want to see all of their options. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked what that would do for us on water quality issues, to which Superintendent Fournier responded that it would be another dead-end location that we would need to monitor and probably have to do some light

flushing on a regular basis; however, it would also depend on water usage down there. After some further discussion, Commissioner James Jardin and Commissioner Steven Bernstein stated they would be open to seeing more plans and would possibly waive the loop requirements for this project.

IV. 18 West Main Street – Norton Historical Society

1. The Norton Historical Society, located at 18 West Main Street, will be connecting to Municipal Sewer and are looking for all permit/inspection fees to be waived. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that where this is a Town building, they were not assessed a betterment fee and would only be responsible to pay the permit/inspections fees. Commissioner Jardin, as well as Commissioner Bernstein, were under the impression that fees for all Town buildings were going to be waived and made a motion to do so for this building.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein to waive the Sewer Permit fee of \$550 and any inspection fees of \$50 per hour for the Norton Historical Society building on 18 West Main Street. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

V. Utility Bill Dispute Discussion

1. Two bill disputes were presented to the Commissioners. Both disputes were Water only accounts that stated leaks were found, which resulted in a high bill. Commissioner Steven Bernstein stated that in the past the Commissioners have not waived Water, to which Commissioner James Jardin agreed and stated they could have the meter tested but unfortunately water went through the meter and needs to be paid for.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein for 1 Fuller Drive for a Water bill challenged that we take no action. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein for 27 Antone Drive for a disputed Water bill that I recommend no action. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. Dan Campbell – 0 Mansfield Ave

1. Dan Campbell, along with his colleague Nick, have previously gone before the Board regarding the proposed apartment buildings along Mansfield Ave. A couple months ago, they proposed Sewer plans that went down Reservoir Street; however, as the Board requested, they are now proposing and submitting Sewer plans for

review that go down Mansfield Ave. Superintendent Fournier stated that he has no issues with what is being presented and the next step would be for Weston & Sampson to complete a Peer Review on the Sewer Plans.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein to establish the plans to go to Peer Review. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. Superintendent Updates

1. Superintendent Frank Fournier wanted to take a moment to thank Sewer Tech Howard Harrop who just retired after 23 years of service. We were lucky enough to be able to promote within and Bruno Giacalone is now the lead Sewer Tech, which will leave a vacancy for a Sewer Tech. Superintendent Fournier stated that Bruno has been with us for a short amount of time; however, he does come with years of experience. David Fischer, a Water Tech, will also be retiring in January, which will leave a Water Tech position vacant.
2. PFAS Discussion: During Quarter 3, our average exceeded the MCL by 1ppt. Superintendent Fournier stated that there was a delay in results because it takes about 3 or 4 weeks for the sample to come back from the labs. Although this exceedance requires a public notice to go out, it is not an emergency. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that himself, as well as Assistant Superintendent John Harrop worked with the State to make the template easier for residents to follow. As the public notice will state, this exceedance took place at Well 3, which is now offline; however, will probably go back online in January so we can perform our regular duties that are required at the other facilities. Superintendent Fournier stated that when this Well does go back online, another public notice will be sent out. It has been recommended that we provide a source location of tap water that doesn't exceed the MCL to give residents; however, the immediate action was to take that Well offline. Commissioner Bernstein asked if the water is safe to drink, which Superintendent Fournier stated that the Well that exceeded is not currently in the drinking water because it is off, but anyone who is concerned should contact their healthcare provider.
3. Additions to Capital Improvements: Capital Budgets are due by December 20th for the next Fiscal Year. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that we may look into getting a quote to replace the '05 Dump Truck, as well as replacing the electronic road signs. We are also looking for safety equipment such as an additional trench box. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that he went out and got three quotes and North East Shoring came in at the lowest price at about \$14,000. Commissioner Bernstein stated that the price is not even a debate as employee's lives are worth it, to which Commissioner Jardin agreed.
4. Flow Testing & Flushing: There have been at least one or more Fire Pump, Fire Hydrant or Fire Sprinkler test every day since September. We have four Fire Pump Flow Tests scheduled for this week and are isolated to Leonard Street. There are no major flow tests scheduled during the week of Thanksgiving. Technicians have also

been performing some light distribution system flushing which helps control water age in the dead-end locations, as well as allow us to make sure the chlorine residual is similar throughout the distribution system.

5. Water Meter/Meter Reading Software: We met with a meter supplier who also provides meter software, which happened to coincide with a letter we received from our current meter software stating that the support will expire in June 2024. We would like this supplier to come in and give a presentation on what his meters and software can do and didn't know if the Board would like to see the presentation as well. Superintendent Fournier stated there is some new technology where the resident could download an app on their phone to see their flow rates from the meter, as well as upgrading the software for our system to get the readings by a click of a button, rather than doing drive by readings. The Commissioners stated they would like to see the presentation.
6. Construction Fees: As recently discussed, we have slowly been amending our Rules and Regulations removing outdated information and updating material specs. The next item we need to address is the current fee that we charge when we install a water service. We currently charge \$50 per hour for each tech that is onsite; however, that amount is not covering the cost for fuel or the equipment that is required to get the job done which means we are not covering the costs to perform these jobs. Commissioner James Jardin asked how long that fee has been in place, to which Superintendent Fournier responded as long as the 23 years that he has been here. The Commissioners suggested keeping the \$50 fee but adding a schedule of fees for the equipment that would need to be used.

VIII. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates

Sewer – Steve Pedersen

1. Cobb Street Phase I: Since the last meeting, they have installed the lights and the conduit. The only thing left is the breaker for the disconnect, which they are expecting to get by the end of November. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen presented and recommended Pay Requisition #3.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein to approve pay requisition #3 for Cobb Street Pump Station for \$15,798.54. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Cobb Street Phase II: We received Town Meeting vote to support additional money and an Intent to Award Letter was sent to Biszko, who was the lowest bidder. Commissioner Bernstein asked what the price was, as well as how many bidders there were. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen responded that the cost is \$286,625 and there were three bidders. The contract will hopefully be executed for the next meeting.
3. Holly Road/Knollwood: Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen stated his frustration in the lack of response from Eversource. Mr. Pedersen stated that once the gas company goes out, all the Contractor has left to do is hook up the generators. Pay Requisition

#4 was presented and recommended by Weston & Sampson. Superintendent Fournier asked if we should expect any penalties from the Contractor due to the delay from Eversource. Mr. Pedersen responded that this Contractor has been very good to work with; however, there is always a possibility.

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein to approve pay requisition #4 for Knollwood and Holly Road Pump Station Improvements for \$28,500. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Peer Reviews: Balfour Farms is moving forward with the construction. The Sewer Peer Review has been provided to them and the Water Peer Review will be sent over. Weston & Sampson will begin working on the Peer Review for 0 Mansfield Ave and will reach out to 0 Reservoir Street to make sure the plans they previously submitted are still accurate before that Peer Review begins.
5. Elm Street Sewer Design: Weston & Sampson are still working on the design and will schedule to go out to the Rumford Pump Station to do an analysis.

Water – Tara McManus

6. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated she would help assist a response to DEP regarding the PFAS exceedance that Superintendent Fournier mentioned earlier.
7. There was a meeting held with EPA and it was determined that the grant money can be used for other things, as long as it is water related, a letter would just need to be sent to them to let them know what it would be used on.
8. South Worcester & East Hodges Street Area Water Main Project: We received approval to extend the draft railroad permit to next year as it was set to expire in December. We are ready to go out to bid but will have Superintendent Fournier do a final review of the plans before.
9. The recommendations for Balfour Farms have been sent over to Superintendent Fournier. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that they didn't have any water details so it's basically up to the Department as what they would like them to do.
10. In regards to the Capital Improvements, we already have contracts for the projects at Cottage Street. The first project is looking at options to replace the elevated tank or options if we want to repaint it. During that study we will also look at the water storage through the entire system. The second project will include looking to put an aerator in the ground storage tank to help with the reduction of THM's. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus presented the contracts to the Commissioners; however, Commissioner Bernstein stated that he would like to review them before they are signed, to which Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated she would email them over to the Commissioners for review.

IX. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

1. N/A

X. Bills & Correspondence

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

XI. Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12th

XII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 7:11pm. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Jardin – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

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

BOARD MEETING HELD: November 14, 2023

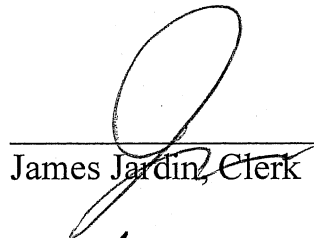
Respectfully submitted,



Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

Steve Bishop, Chairman

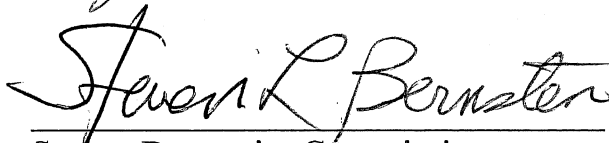
Date Approved



James Jardin, Clerk

1-9-24

Date Approved



Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

1/9/24

Date Approved