

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA

Wednesday June 29, 2011

6:30pm. Meeting opened. Commissioners Diane McElligott, Luke Grant and Steve Wiseman present. Also present, Duane Knapp, Rose Melito and Fran Yanuskiewicz.

IMA: Next meetings July 7th and July 14th. Chairwoman McElligott stated she would be out of state the week of July 11th and asked Commissioner Grant if he would be able to attend the IMA meeting on July 14th. He stated he would be available. Commissioners Grant and Wiseman said they would like to attend on the 7th as well.

The Board was informed that Fred Cornaglia, DPW Commissioner from the City of Taunton called to invite them to the dedication of Taunton's new water tank on Thursday June 30th at 10:00am. The location is the Columbia Cultural Center in the Taunton Industrial Park.

Mr. Knapp informed the Board that he approved the domestic water line permit for a five unit condo in Red Mill Village, with the stipulation the sprinkler fee would be paid in full prior to signing off on occupancy permits. We should have a better idea after meeting with Thorndike reps tonight how to proceed with this issue.

Commissioner Grant asked Mr. Knapp what the issue on the Mansfield Avenue Project was today. He responded the Conservation Agent stopped the construction stating we didn't have the proper permits. Mr. Knapp said he did everything that was required of him. He had the project marked and surveyed and was assured there would be no interference with wetlands. The Conservation Agent is claiming otherwise. Commissioner Grant stated it is not a true repair and replacement project if you're "moving it" across the street. That may be the issue, permits may have been required under that circumstance. Commissioner Grant stressed the need for more communication and cooperation between the two departments. Mrs. Melito was directed to contact the Conservation Department and request that the Water Dept. be placed on their next agenda.

Lloyd Geisinger & David Eastridge: Representing Thorndike Properties/Red Mill Village. The letter of April 22, 2011 was discussed. Chairwoman McElligott stated she understood this was their starting point, however water and sewer issues by law must be kept separate. She asked to discuss sewer issues first, most specifically the sewer lift station. It was stated that only easement right of ways over streets could be given, it is one large parcel with no frontage and could not be subdivided as a separate lot. The Board proposed that in lieu of the FY-2011 Capacity Assessment (\$22,303.00) and the FY-2012 Capacity Assessment (approx. \$22,300.00) Thorndike agree to turn over the sewer lift station and mains within Red Mill Village. Mr. Eastridge stated Attorney Cove had previously outlined a draft agreement that he and Mr. Geisinger and their counsel can review and expand on to incorporate tonight's discussion.

The Board questioned the Newland Street force main. Mr. Geisinger stated he considered that a done deal and had no problem signing off on that immediately.

Running traps were discussed. Mr. Knapp stated he felt this was the best option for odor control at this time and recommended that they be installed in all units at Red Mill Village. A possible rebate program was discussed for units that would need to be retro-fitted.

Water issues were discussed. Mr. Geisinger stated he can't understand how he could build in this town for the last ten years and this is the first he's heard of a sprinkler fee. He felt he had gone above and beyond what the town required including water main (and sewer main) upgrades. These sprinkler fees were never built in to the cost factor of Red Mill or Godfrey Drive because they were never mentioned. To pay this kind of money now would bankrupt the development. Mr. Geisinger said he has always had a good relationship with the town and would like to continue to, but would fight this in court, he believes it's an illegal tax. He also stated he feels like the water department is now holding his building permits hostage, and would like the Board to agree to approve the signing of the permits until this matter is settled one way or another. The Board agreed not to hold up the building permits. Mr. Eastridge said he would work on a draft for the sewer issues including the pump station, for their review over the next few weeks. They thanked the Board for their time.

Contracts: Commissioner Grant questioned what licenses Mr. Knapp held. Mr. Knapp responded none. His job is to run the department. The Foreman makes the distribution decisions and the Primary Well Operator makes the well decisions and they hold the required licenses. When asked why not get them anyway if the Town is willing to pay for them, Mr. Knapp responded it would take six years and he'll already be retired.

All appropriately processed bills were signed and correspondence was read.

Next meeting Monday July 11, 2011 at 6:30pm

Monday July 11, 2011 – Conservation Meeting time TBA

Meeting adjourned 10:30pm