

BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS
166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
September 26, 2017

6:30pm. Meeting called to order. Commissioners Luke Grant, Steve Bishop and Thomas Weir present. Also present Bernie Marshall, Rose Melito, Fran Yanuskiewicz, Barbara Cook and several town residents.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 12, 2017 Board Meeting were read, approved and signed as submitted.

Action Items: Sewer Rules and Regs - Fran recommended that for tonight's Public Hearing the Board specifically focus on the adoption of the Land Use Controls regulation as an addendum to the Sewer Rules and Regulations, and address updating existing rules and regulations at a later date. The adoption of the LUC is a requirement of the DEP as outlined in their August 15, 2017 memo. As part of the MFN Regional District both Mansfield and Foxboro have already adopted the regulation. A handout and brief overview was discussed.

Superintendent Updates: Mr. Marshall met with FinCom to review Article requests for the Fall Town Meeting. FinCom seemed to be in support of Articles, 18, 19, 21, and 22. Article 20 was tabled until further information is made available. A conference call with MHC and Weston & Sampson is scheduled for later this week in hopes of finalizing Article 20.

7:00pm: Commissioner Grant opened and called the Public Hearing to order. All Commissioners present. As duly advertised in the local news publication of the Sun Chronicle on September 13, 2017 the Board will consider and act on the incorporation of the LAND USE CONTROLS that were approved by the State Department of Environmental Protection as part of the Sewer Rules and Regulations of the Town of Norton. Commissioner Grant further stated the Commission is adopting this Land Use Control as part of the Sewer Use Regulations to ensure managed growth based on the availability of municipal sewer flow volumes and collection service availability. Fran Yanuskiewicz explained this regulation (formerly referred to as *Flow Neutral Regulations*) is a requirement of MA DEP and SRF funding. It establishes a listing of flow allocation and reallocation, a condensed version of the CWMP.

Commissioner Grant asked if there were any questions or input from the public. There was none. There being no further questions, Commissioner Bishop motioned; The Commission, acting in the capacity as Sewer Commissioners for the Town of Norton, MA do hereby adopt the following Smart Growth-Land Use Control. The Sewer Service Areas and projected wastewater flows have been designated following comprehensive and deliberate study of the existing and projected wastewater needs of the Town. Reference is hereby made to the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) accepted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Environmental Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs-MEPA Office. Commissioner Weir seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor:

Steve Bishop – aye

Thomas Weir – aye

Luke Grant – aye

So voted unanimous. **Public Hearing Closed 7:10pm.**

Superintendent Updates: (continued) Selectmen's Meeting 10/19 – Members unavailable.

Claim for damage to a tire on East Main St. – Refer to Highway Department

Mass Grant (West Main Street Sewer Project) – unlikely.

Reservoir Street sewer gates – 95% completed.

Approved generator purchase – Order placed.

Flushing program continuing/Informational handouts were given to everyone in attendance – Public responses and questions:

Q: Why do we constantly have dirty water?

A: It is primarily due to the concentration of iron and manganese build up in the water mains. Recently the DEP mandated we increase the ph level in our system which directly caused an increase in the discoloration of the water.

Q: Flushing doesn't seem to make a difference - what else can be done?

A: The treatment facility along with a unidirectional flushing program will improve water quality appearance. Whole house filters are also a short term solution.

Q: Why has it taken the Town so long to get this plant built?

A: First phase included several miles of water main replacement over many years. Second phase was to Design the facility, get Town approval and funding, Permitting and finally MHC issues (Refer to informational handout) as a result a re-design, re-permitting and additional funding approval all added to the timeline.

Q: How long before the plant is operational?

A: The Fall of 2019.

Q: What is the Town going to do for its residents in the mean time?

A: We will continue to flush and work with the DEP to reduce our ph levels. The Board welcomes any ideas from the public.

Q: Can the residents be better notified by the department about flushing and ongoing water projects?

A: We've been told the town's communication center is not able to aid us with a reverse 911 option. The sources of communication currently being used are the Sun Chronicle, Town website, Town cable station, Large flashing street signs, local café signs, Town Hall message board, department facebook page and our annual water report. We also have public meetings twice a month.

Discussion - Residents are concerned about their appliances and replacement costs. Other towns give away free water why can't Norton? Why can't the town supply the whole house filters? Why can't the Town issue a credit on the water bills?

Commissioner Grant explained this department works within the confines of an approved Town budget, some of these ideas are cost prohibitive, others will require more inquiries and input from the DEP and MGL guidelines. That being said he gave his word the Board would consider and further explore these suggestions and support further open communication.

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Phil Sheridan: 20 Kilsyth Road. Requested the Board consider an abatement on a portion of his sewer bill. Having spent several months in Florida he was unaware of an outside faucet that had been leaking over the winter. He acknowledged the responsibility of the entire water bill. After further discussion the Board approved the request and authorized a partial reduction to his sewer bill.

Weston & Sampson Updates: Once the minutes of this meeting are approved and signed the Public Hearing portion will have to be attested to by the Town Clerk and will be forwarded to the DEP. Final pay request for C. Naughton should be completed by the next Board meeting. Working on the letter regarding the *Sewer Flow Metering* - needs to be sent to DEP by December.

All appropriately processed bills were signed and correspondence was read.

Next meeting October 10, 2017 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned 10:00pm.

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

Board Meeting Held: September 26, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Melito
Office Administrator

Luke Grant
Luke Grant, Chairman

10/10/17
Date Approved

Steve Bishop
Steve Bishop, Clerk

10/10/17
Date Approved

Thomas Weir
Thomas Weir, Member

10/10/17
Date Approved