

**Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners**  
**166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA 02766**  
**February 11, 2020**

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**Meeting called to order at 6:49pm**

**Attendance:**

Commissioners, Luke Grant, Steve Bishop & Scott Ollerhead  
Water & Sewer Superintendent, Frank Fournier  
Weston & Sampson: Tara McManus  
Norton Neighbors: Rob Welsh

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Superintendent Updates:**

**Sprint PCS**

Tower lease documents have been returned to us after legal review. Sprint is asking to extend their current lease. This agreement requires that all 3 commissioners have the document notarized at time of signing.

**Water Treatment Facility**

Water has been successfully pumped in the distribution system using only well five. Any flow changes that did occur on day one was quickly handled with light flushing. Runtime took a little longer than predicted partially due to additional flushing. Any excess water not used up by demand went into the storage tanks. Technicians were out Friday & Saturday handling power outages and dirty water issues caused by a power surging on Friday. Surging and power issues also affected communication between wells and computer systems. Lead sewer technician and Superintendent Fournier ran the system manually, as needed, until normal operations could be restored. System is now working normally. Well 6 was not able to be taken off-line on the date expected due to mobilization issues. Well 6 should be able to be taken off-line on February 12, 2020. The well will be cleaned and re-developed prior to making the connection to the new water treatment facility.

Work on well 5 that was originally scheduled for start on February 11, 2020, to connect the new water main to existing water main, was postponed due to weather. Depending on the weather, work may start on February 12, 2020. The new generator for well 5 is larger than anticipated. Osterman propane technician recommends that the engineers double-check with the town gas inspector for commercial setbacks from a dwelling prior to pouring any concrete pad. Communication with the town gas inspector to get measurements and confirm setbacks is in the works. Osterman Propane explained the tank sizes needed for a larger generator is two 1,000-gallon cylinders running side-by-side with a substantial size service line to prevent regulator icing, due to 100 kw capacity and the BTUs needed.

Fencing for the site and fuel source to be provided by Water & Sewer Dept. This was decided by prior administration. Additional substantial fencing cost in the very near future is anticipated as the two new wells are installed this will change the wellhead protection area which we are required to protect from unauthorized vehicles and all foot traffic this is done to protect the public water supply, we will need to have large gates installed at both ends of the property to allow maintenance and emergency vehicles to access to the roadway. Fencing options are discussed amongst the board members with mention to about allowing for foot traffic to the public in the wooded areas and forest nearby. It is noted that the Conservation Dept. needs to be consulted in order to be sure of guidelines and pricing estimates are needed for the fencing.

### **West Main Street Sewer**

Off-road work at 120 West Main Street for the wet well had de-watering issues. Complications occurred due to the weather, but excavation is now complete. A crane will be on site on February 12, 2020 to install precast pieces of the wet well and backfill and plumbing can go on from there. Mass DOT amendment to the original permit allows daytime work for requested drilling to get a better profile on the ledge. 4-5 hours per day was approved in permit amendment. It is noted that communication with the fire department and other departments is necessary for successful day work.

### **Water Vending Machine**

The water vending machine is broken. It is believed that this is due to the most recent storm causing electrical damage. Blue drop has received approval from Mass DEP for the filter change process. The filter has been installed and the transition is possible for February 12, 2020, after the replacement pump arrives. Announcements will be made once the machine is ready for use.

### **Rusen Karayel Update**

Mr. Karayel's water meter test results are in, the meter tested accurate. His water was never shut off at the curb stop, so there is no proof that supports his claim of an error in bill charges. Commissioner Grant begins discussion with Mr. Karayel and Superintendent Fournier about the importance of having the curb stop turned off whenever leaving town. Mr. Karayel states that he will make sure to contact the Water & Sewer Dept., before his next trip, to have a riser installed at the curb stop for his residence. Superintendent Fournier asks that Mr. Karayel allow the dept. access to his home and meter at such time of his departure so pictures of the meter reading can be taken and water shut-off can be physically confirmed by the dept.

Commissioner Grant states that their policy requires that if the reading is proven to be accurate on the meter, the bill stands. Mr. Karayel asks if there is any possible relief available to him for this bill. Commissioner Grant states he can grant Mr. Karayel extended time to pay off the bill with no interest or penalty fees incurring. Mr. Karayel asks that a new meter to be installed. Superintendent Fournier notes that the meter is not the same meter from when Mr. Karayel had this bill issue many years ago. He also makes a note that all water meters are tested for accuracy prior to purchase. Commissioner Grant approves the new meter for the Karayel home



and request that Superintendent Fournier check both ball valves and the curb stop to be sure there is no valve debris.

### **Weston & Sampson:**

**Tara McManus**

### **West Main Street**

Currently, work is slow due to the weather with regard to the wet wells going in. Geo probes will be going in soon. It is possible that the contractor may petition for longer than 5-hour work days. No major issues with the work so far. There is a requirement for the contractors to notify Mass DOT before work starts.

### **Pine Street**

The intent to award letter went to apparent low bidder, KJS. We are awaiting documentation and proof of insurance from them. It is noted that this habitat sensitive area needs to be worked around. Equipment storage location options are requested by KJS. the Board discusses potential locations and recommends that KJS may want to reach out to the Balfour Farm owner about using the property and maybe offering some form of fixing up and making property presentable after use the of the land as temporary storage for the KJS equipment has concluded. A closer area that was cleared for the MFN was also discussed as a possibility, but may be difficult to use because it is more of an access road area with a steep incline.

### **Water Treatment Facility**

The plant is up and running well. There were some disturbances with the weather. Those have been fixed. Currently there are working with contractors to get work started on well 6. The intent is to take well 6 offline, have the well cleaned and re-developed then make the connection to the new water main for the water treatment facility. After that the same will happen with well 4. It is anticipated that all wells could be online within 2 months.

### **Methuen Construction**

Tara McManus presents the contract to the commissioners for signatures allowing payment to Methuen Construction. Commissioner Grant notes that there is a good-sized fencing budget already in the contract and that is mostly used at this time. He also states that some of the work that is on the paperwork is incomplete so he will not sign until he sees all of the things done. Commissioner Grant says that he wants to table the issue until Methuen Construction finishes the work stated on the contract.

### **Well 5 Generator Update**

Commissioner Grant has spoken with a salesman that states that the only information required to provide the municipality with a generator is the cable distance, type of interface and cable type. It is agreed that one can be ordered as needed, and there is no need to have one on-site

incurring charges for just having it there and ready. Commissioner Grant has been assured that a generator can be delivered on-site within a 5-10-hour period because the generator needed is a common-size and plenty are available. Superintendent Fournier notes that also has secured an emergency power source should the need arise and has contacts for emergency electricians for the tie-over, should there be any major disasters that makes turnaround time unknown.

#### **Norton Neighbors:**

##### **Robert Welsh**

Mr. Welsh brings up Norton resident concerns and questions with respect to the well shut-offs. He states that he has had many residents asking which well does their water come from. Superintendent Fournier explained the system operations and that the wells run "in-series" and that all of the wells pump into the distribution system this is a blended system. Superintendent Fournier also notes that no one dwelling receives water from just one well. It is noted by Mr. Welsh and Superintendent Fournier that the Water & Sewer department need to receive reports and calls about dirty water or any other disturbances of the system from the customers. Anticipated disturbances are posted, but unanticipated problems cannot be fixed without notification from the community.

The number for emergency calls to the water department is 508-285-0280. It is noted that no one will be billed for any work without being asked for permission to do the work first.

#### **Next meeting February 25, 2020**

Commissioner Grant moves for a motion to adjourn meeting.

Commissioner Bishop motions to adjourn.

Commissioner Grant seconds motion

All in favor:

Luke Grant – aye

Steve Bishop - aye

Scott Ollerhead – aye

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm



# TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

P.O. Box 1168 Norton, Massachusetts 02766

Tel. (508) 285-0280 Fax (508) 285-0298

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

BOARD MEETING HELD: Feb 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Nye Brown

  
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Luke Grant, Chairman  
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Date Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Bishop, Clerk

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Date Approved

  
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Scott Ollerhead, Member  
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Date Approved