

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners
166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA 02766
September 22, 2020

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Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

Attendance:

Superintendent Frank Fournier

Commissioner Luke Grant

Commissioner Steve Bishop

Weston & Sampson: Tara McManus and Steve Pedersen

Superintendent Updates

Flow Testing

A second flow test has been performed since the last meeting. This flow test was at a facility with a 2000 gallon/minute pump. There were no negative effects on the town's distribution system during or after test completion. Routine water main Flushing will begin at the booster station on Cottage Street tonight. One crew will work toward Attleboro town line heading down West Main Street in the direction of Old Colony Road. The other crew will start from Cottage St. and work in the direction of the town center. We will be focusing on areas with working drainage that we can distribute large volumes of water to without making large puddles of standing water. The crews will be moving around in hopes of reaching as far as Freeman Street by the end of the night. The goal is to go from the Cottage St. booster station to the Mansfield Ave. booster station and then towards the Water Treatment Facility. Again, side roads in these areas may be used for drainage purposes. The goal is to keep the flooding off of the main road. After Flushing trunk lines tonight and tomorrow, the system will be reevaluated to see how much storage we have used and possibly trying to transition from night flushing to daytime flushing. If the water quality remains as good as it has been, we are going to use a different method that does not use extremely high velocity. We will calculate the exact gallons in each water main and turn them over twice based on distance and time. We will be able to get the area covered without wasting excess water. Superintendent Fournier explains the effects of scouring too much and not enough on the water quality. DEP does recommend that we flush even though we are in a level 2 water drought, even if it is a modified program, if possible. We are waiting to hear from a few companies who need to set up their fire pump flow tests. We will attempt to schedule those tests to work in conjunction with the flushing program. That will be done at a higher flow rate than normally used, so it will be beneficial to the areas of town that do

not typically see that on a regular basis. We will try to keep the website updated with our locations. This flushing will not be as aggressive as the spring flushing. Not every hydrant in town gets used during a flushing program. We have been rather aggressive with our hydrant maintenance program this year thanks to Covid and the need to have staff separated. Many hydrants have been operated, painted and greased with an anti-seize compound, as part of our preventative maintenance.

Service Leak

Crews and myself responded to a service leak on South Worcester Street. After excavation the damage to the copper water service was due to electrolysis. This area was upgraded in 2009 with new water main and water services. The copper pipes can corrode from a stray electrical charge coming from the home. Older homes with poor grounds can cause this to happen. Most electrical services are typically grounded to the water pipes in the home. We removed the damaged section of the copper service and replaced it with CTS plastic pipe from the corporation to the curb. There is some discussion on what possible materials would be longest lasting and most efficient to use between Commissioner Luke Grant and Superintendent Fournier. They also discuss possible ways to stop electrolysis issues from happening again.

East Main Street/ Route 123 DOT Improvement Project

The DOT project is off to a slow start. Some of the gas mains are currently located where the new drainage pipe is planned to be installed, the gas company has been working to relocate their piping. Some of the stone walls have been removed, tree work has been started and new utility poles have been installed in the area closer to 495. There is a new issue with potential utility strikes due to the installation of the new utility poles. The widening of the roadway is the new issue, the current utilities have been marked to the existing property line, which is what most utilities own. with the new extra wide easement that was taken by the state now new utility crews are working and installing poles into an unknown un marked area. There was already one water service strike because of this. Our crews responded and repaired the broken line and flushed the homes water service. Unfortunately, the homeowner a few days late is having an issue with a clogged toilet due to the impact and damage to the homes water service because crews are working in an unknown area. The problem and possibility of a solution is discussed between the superintendent and Commissioner Grant. Commissioner Grant expresses that the homeowner needs to be appeased and the problem needs to be fixed. The Superintendent spoke with the resident and passed along the contractor's information for the mass DOT project.

Well 4 Generator

The town's insurance adjuster came out last week to assess the damage to the generator. we are still waiting to hear back. They did request a copy of the repair quote, but it is incomplete because South Shore is having difficulty locating some of the harnesses, South Shore generator is the company we have our temporary generator rental from. South Shore has provided water and sewer with a letter of recommendation to replace the entire unit from end to end based on the scope of damage and time it would take to get it to a running and operational phase before testing can be done. They have also sent a quote for the turn key replacement. All of that has been sent to the insurance adjuster for review and determination. Our next step if this is not covered by insurance is to obtain three equal quotes as soon as we can because the rental is starting to add up. And replace the unit at our cost.

Well 5 & 6 Replacements

The superintendent and Tara McManus of Weston & Sampson virtually attended the Conservation Committee meeting last Monday (9/14/2020). This is a continuation from the first meeting because we did not have the MassDEP number. All of the requested updates, coloring and labeling that was requested by the Conservation Commission for this second meeting. However, we have been continued again because conservation did not have an order of conditions ready at this meeting.

Commissioner Grant asks what the next steps will be after the Conservation Commission signs off. Superintendent Fournier passes that question to Tara McManus of Weston & Sampson.

Tara McManus explains. The first step will be to get the order of conditions after the public comment period. Then, the erosion control measures will be installed and inspected. The driller, Frank Sullivan, will then come out and start drilling the well.

Commissioner Grant asks about the erosion control location and Tara states that it is on the plans and takes up most of the eastern border of the property between well five and well six. It is hoped that this issue will be closed out at the next Conservation meeting.

Commissioner Grant asks Tara McManus about the possibility of her sending out an email to the Conservation Commission asking about the status of the order of conditions. Tara McManus informs the board that the email went out this morning asking about the order of conditions. Commissioner Grant expresses that this project being approved is critical. Superintendent Fournier states that he at least wants to get approval to work even if only up to a certain point possibly installing the erosion control.

Sewer Updates

There is about 250 feet left in the sewer trunk line to be completed. There is also a state drain pipe that has to be replaced within these 250 feet. This measurement does not include the sewer laterals which will require some hammering to remove rock and

ledge. There has been an issue with dust control on the roadway. The contractors have been made aware multiple time that they need to work to control the dust. It causes poor visibility in the afternoons for everyone on the roads. There have also been a few calls about the portion of 123 that is now nicknamed "the rollercoaster". This area goes from just before the intersection of route 123 and Freeman Street all the way to the intersection of routes 140 and 123 with one minor break in the roughness right before the high school entrance. The contractors will be looking at their schedule and figuring out a time to get that area leveled out. Steve Pedersen states that the main sewer line should be completed by next week. The permanent trench paving will be done this fall, the contractor will have to mill 2 inches in the spring and do a top overlay. The current location that was chosen for the sewer main differs from the original location, it was moved for a couple different reasons. by avoiding the center of the roadway this may allow us to only reclaim one travel lane instead of re pave the entire road way which means there could be less paving cost for the project. It is ultimately up to the state to determine the areas to pave.

Sewer Construction/ Hybrid Learning

There have been communications between Superintendent Fournier, Steve Pedersen of Weston & Sampson and the commission have all been cc'd on the multiple different emails that went around with the best options during the return to school with the buses. The final decision, which is in place now, is to have the contractor wait until after 8:30 in the morning before closing any lanes. This will allow staff and students to arrive at school on time. The on-time arrival is one of the biggest concerns for the school department. The contractors will not be charging for the later start time because they are still completing their 8-hour days for five days a week. They have no issue accommodating the school time request. The schools have provided positive feedback. The new issue is making sure the buses can get back and forth in the afternoon to transport all of the students from all of the schools. The police department will be watching for buses to show up and make their travel as smooth as possible. Superintendent Fournier mentions that a few people have asked why the night work was discontinued. He explains that the blasting and hammering cannot be done at night based on the Mass DOT permit and some of the remaining work will require rock removal. There are DOT regulations that have to be followed and that is one of them.

Weston & Sampson

Steve Pedersen - Sewer

Commissioner Grant asks when the main line can be turned on with regard to the laterals. Steve Pedersen explains that there are a few steps that are different with this job than with other sewer jobs. They plan on getting all of the laterals done and getting

the flow meter installed at Howard Street before sending any waste water to the Wheaton Sewer Station. The high school and the Yelle will then be connected to the new sewer main and the current sewer main which goes to the middle school will be tied into a manhole for future use if the middle school decides to connect. The original design of this job was to remove a portion of this main during construction, but the construction crews were able to install all of the new sewer without having to remove that main from service. There is discussion about the gravity pump and connection to the schools both present day and future connection opportunities were discussed based on work that was previously done by the water and sewer department.

Steve Pedersen presents pay requisition #12 for \$250,000 to the board and recommends that it be approved and signed for payment of the work done in the last month. He then explains the difference in the composition of the ground and how it has become easier now. Steve Pedersen also presents Change Order #5 for the 700 feet of state drainage replacement work. The need for an extension for Weston & Sampson to continue working on the sewer project is brought up by Steve Pedersen. He asks the board to extend their office and field oversight during the extended time needed to complete the sewer project. He mentions that he is working on an updated estimate to completion. Details about some of the reimbursements and loans and monies. He discusses the contract for designing. Commissioner Grant asks to table it for the next meeting on October 13, 2020.

Tara McManus - Water

Water Treatment Plant

Methuen Construction sent in their proposal last week for their plans on the next step. Tara McManus wants to confirm that the same epoxy will be used as is on the bottom foot or so of the tank. The update is that the water held in that area of the tank. There were leaks above that area so the epoxy will need to be installed up the sides of the well walls. The construction company has been informed that this is their last attempt to seal the tank. There is a contingency plan in place to hire another third party to do the work if it is not done properly this time by Methuen Construction. It is worth noting that their waterproofing specialist is a third party to them. The epoxy was rolled on, but can be sprayed. The rolling was effective and it is recommended that everything be done exactly as the bottom of the tank was done. There will be two different colors that will help see if there is any degradation. That allows for easier detection of wear and tear over time. Tara McManus is looking to get an update from Methuen with a plan, actual dates and materials confirmed. Methuen thought they were done with the punch list, but there are a few items that still need to be completed, there will be a conversation to get that settled and understood.

Wells 5 & 6 Replacement

We have another meeting on Monday with the Conservation Commission to go over the plan revisions with them. we will ask that they conditionally approve the order and if needed it can be updated and sent back the following morning. We will be speaking with the conservation director to discuss options of possibly starting the erosion control work in advance. The next step is to hire the well driller upon approval. The driller will start developing the wells and we will move forward with the next two phases of the design project. Tara explains what the steps are and will entail. The plans show the fencing around the vaults and generator. The goal is to complete the design and put it out for bid this winter with the hopes of starting construction as soon as possible. Tara explains the details of the next few months and what she expects to get done briefly.

Pine Street Project

We are in discussion with the contractor for the final trench paving. Their intention is to have it completed in three days. They will mill first, then overlay the trench across the area itself. She goes into detail about how it will get done. All work has to be completed by November 15, 2020.

Motions

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to approve change order 5 for the drainage replacement.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Bishop - aye

Commissioner Grant - aye

Motion approved.

Commissioner Bishop makes a motion to approve the extended time of Weston & Sampson to oversee the sewer project.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Grant - aye

Commissioner Bishop - aye

Motion approved.

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Bishop - aye

Commissioner Grant - aye

Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48pm.

Next Meeting is October 13, 2020 @ 5:30pm.



TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

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BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD: 9/22/2020

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Nye Brown
Victoria Nye Brown

[Signature]
Luke Grant, Chairman

[Signature]
Steve Bishop, Clerk
