

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

166 John Scott Blvd., Norton, MA 02766

October 27, 2020

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Meeting called to order at 5:40pm

Attendance:

Superintendent Frank Fournier

Commissioner Luke Grant

Commissioner Steve Bishop

Weston & Sampson: Tara McManus, Steve Pedersen, & Barbara Cook

Superintendent Updates:

Around 2 am Wednesday October 14, 2020, the six-inch water main which supplies water to the fire sprinkler system at Walgreens ruptured. Break was not immediately noticed due to time of day and weather conditions. We were alerted by a low tank alarm from our Scada system. Upon quick review of the telemetry, we noticed that the tank was losing water at a rapid pace. Multiple personnel responded to determine the source of the leak because it was not called in. Once the affected area was located crews began the isolation procedures. This was a large area that needed to be shut down it actually took 8 gate valves to isolate the leak including taking the nearby elevated tank offline. It took about one hour from the time of the alarm till employees responded and get the water leak under control. Once the water began to recede in the center of town, it was determined that this was a water drainage issue was being caused by work from the previous day. The road plates from that work actually blocked the path to the storm water drain, so the water from the heavy rainfall never made it to the state drain. It ended up in the trench. The flooding of the trench directly adjacent to the Walgreen's fire sprinkler feed allowed loosening to material and the thrust blocks which allowed the pipe to settle and ultimately break.

It is important to note that there were no dirty water calls even with the significant loss of water. our technicians remained on site and as the water completely drained down were able to isolate the shut down area to within a few gates and ultimately down to one which was the sprinkler feed. Police were called to secure the road and manage traffic and fire department was notified. The fire department also assisted with expediting the Walgreen's sprinkler company to the location who worked with our technicians to fill and flush the sprinkler service line.

the emergency contact numbers for the contractor were called in the early hours of the morning but they did not answer and did not respond early which led to some delays with schools and regular traffic in the area. The primary water treatment plant operator was also called in early he was able to turn the plant on before its normally scheduled start time to help restore the lost water to the system and to the tank.

Thankfully because of the rapid response of our employees the water loss was kept to a minimum, which we were able to replenish most of the loss within a short period of time and thankfully with the operation of the new treatment plant and the successful aggressive flushing

program there were no complaints after this water loss. In fact, because the system stabilized quickly and system samples indicated no impact, we still allowed a previously scheduled hydrant flow test to be performed later in the day with no issues. The repair itself took a day to completely fix. Calls were made to John Rocchio and he was reminded that all emergency calls need to be picked up and responded to in a timely manner. Mr. Rocchio assured Commissioner Grant that he would explain to his subordinates that it has to be picked up and that missed calls should not happen again.

Wells 5 & 6

Superintendent Fournier and Kevin McKinnon of Weston & Sampson met with the drilling contractor, Frank Sullivan, down on site. There were a few quick questions about the silt control and the erosion control that needs to be installed before they are able to do any work down there. Once it is installed, Conservation has to perform a walk through and give their final approval. That is still not a completed step in this process due to a delay getting materials and a member down there to install it.

Flushing

We are still performing our flushing. It is a DEP requirement to do the best we can to get our two system flushes in per year. The program has been modified from the original 10 to 12 week program. We have added so many new gates that we will probably not be able to complete the entire town flushing as expected before winter stops us. We have been flushing some of the older areas that have not been flushed by fire or flow tests in an attempt to maintain the water quality. We have been taking chlorine residuals while the flushing is happening and it is all coming back as 100% treatment plant water that is coming all the way across town so the system has been turned over multiple times and crews are not getting stuck in the older areas as we used to in the past. Some calls came in for low pressure and a partially closed valve was discovered. There were dirty water calls that ended up being in the homeowners service lines. They were advised on the best practice to clean them out. There is discussion about using a machine that exercises the gate valves. In the near future, we would like to get DEP to allow us to lower our ph levels. This will save a ton of money in chemical costs, disinfection and further improve the water quality. Right now, the ph we are required to run at is 8.0 which is not an ideal ph. I have gathered all samples taken from 2017 to present to show what changes the ph caused to the water quality. We must aim for simultaneous compliance with all samples, not just lead and copper. The samples and testing results are being compiled in support of the request to change the ph.

Replacement Generator for Well 4

The procurement officer has given approval to secure the new generator. There had to be an updated third quote because the last one was not specific enough to show the similarities for the procurement. That was signed today and faxed over to the company. This is 6 to 12 weeks out as of now. Everyone is in agreement that the entire unit had to be replaced. The old generator will be removed from the site. What happens to it is up to the insurance company.

Norton Sewer Project

Superintendent Fournier sent a letter to the schools and to DCDH earlier in the week. This letter requires that they provide proof of their discharges for their buildings. This is to make verify the discharge from all roof drains, floor drains and any type of drain that may be currently tied into their private systems. These connections are not be allowed to be connected to a municipal waste water system. These are DEP requirements that we have to enforce. Our goal is to ensure that the only thing going into the sewer is sanitary flow. Superintendent Fournier asks the board if they want to go ahead and apply a deadline for those buildings providing proof. Commissioner Grant says to wait for the feedback from the school and then discuss this topic at our next meeting. When it is time, the residents will also receive that letter with a deadline attached.

Weston & Sampson:

Steve Pedersen: Sewer

All of the gravity sewer work from the high school down to the college. They have finished all of the connections and the air testing is done. The manual testing will be finished this week. They are looking to get calibration completed on Howard Street flow meter and install it. School connections are still in the works. The high school says they have plans that can confirm that their storm drain water is piped separately and goes into the ground, not the waste system. The Yelle maintenance supervisor confirmed that it does come out and drain separately as well. The importance of the school connections is explained. Paving has begun. Before Thanksgiving, it is the goal to be completely done. A permanent trench patch will be done before winter. There are a few punch list items left at the pump station to be completed. There is a contractor set up to demolish the old tank, but will need a little bit of notice because he is working multiple jobs.

Cobb Street

The agreement was signed by the members of this board and it just needs the council and town manager's signature for the work to begin.

Tara McManus: Water

Water Treatment Plant

As of the end of last week, the contractor should have received the waterproofing coating. Now, we are just waiting for confirmation on that and dates that they will be sending their waterproofing specialist or subcontractor out to complete that work. It will be a one to two day job. We have received more documentation from their project closeout. We are reviewing that information as well as negotiation about the outstanding work left to be completed on the punch list. There is a brief discussion about the outstanding items. I do hope to have a better update at the next meeting. Tara also touches on the DEP ph change request and explains the steps.

Wells 5 & 6

The driller should be out next week to drill. The conservation agreed that the erosion control only needs to go around the wells and run-off area for this phase. When the work continues next spring, then the contractor will finish the erosion control measures. Each well should only take a few weeks.

Pine Street

Final trench paving was completed last week, Monday through Wednesday, and the project is closed on our end as far as the general contractor is concerned. We will be checking that the highway dept. is satisfied with that work. As far as we are concerned, we are just waiting for their final pay estimate for project close down. Also, the record drawings, full set of plans, as well as the tie cards for that project have been dropped off to Superintendent Fournier. Next year, the highway dept. will come out and do curb-to-curb overlay, so it is important to make sure that highway is comfortable with the way it looks now and has all of the emergency numbers for the contractors in case there are any issues through the winter.

Motion

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

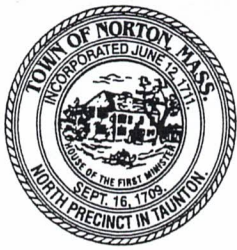
Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Bishop - Aye.

Commissioner Grant - Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38pm

Next Meeting is on November 10, 2020



TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

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BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD: October 27, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Nye Brown
Victoria Nye Brown

[Signature]
Luke Grant, Chairman

[Signature]
Steve Bishop, Clerk
