

**Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners**  
**166 John Scott Blvd, Norton, MA 02766**  
**November 10, 2020**

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**Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm**

**Attendance:** Superintendent Frank Fournier, Commissioner Luke Grant, Commissioner Steve Bishop, Weston & Sampson: Tara McManus & Steve Pedersen

**Superintendent Updates**

**Flushing**

Distribution System Flushing is more than seventy-five percent completed at this time. There was another an issue with water availability in some of the isolated flushing areas as mentioned in previous meetings. We have been utilizing twice as many gate valves as we have in the past to isolate an area. The purpose of this is to conserve water.

There were two instances of low water pressure that were called into the office. The first was on South Worcester Street. The crews followed orders to isolate a gate valves and discovered a significant pressure drop as they transitioned from one street to the next. Additional staff was sent out to investigate. They were able to determine that the pressure change was from a partially closed gate valve. This is an older style gate valve and it is a backwards operating gate which means that the typical position of open is really shut. There is no paperwork or documentation on that area of town due to the age. It has since been documented that it is a backwards operating gate valve. This section of pipe is on the list of improvements and replacements that should occur within the next five to ten years, if not earlier. The valve exerciser machine and the benefits of using it are mentioned, but the hands-on approach is still preferred in some areas. The low-pressure calls came in and were handled in a short and efficient time. There were no dirty water calls as a result.

The second incident of low pressure was also in the South Worcester Street area. The pressure and flow changed on the fourth day of isolation and flushing. The fire department responded to a sprinkler alarm call for a commercial building in the flushing area. The fire pump ran at that commercial building which causes the jockey pump to also operate which uses distribution system water, this trifecta of events caused a system pressure pull down for the area. The pressure was restored with the help of two crews and there were no dirty water calls associated with this change in pressure issue. The commercial building has a known leak in their system and steps are being taken to locate and fix the problem. There are a few factors that are making this task difficult, but it is in the works. Crews completed flushing in the Maple St. and the Golden Wood areas. The Oak Street area is next on the list and is one of the last larger areas that is

still to be completed. There are a handful of small streets still to be done also. Flushing should be completed by our next meeting as long as the weather cooperates. This flushing will have a major positive impact on the monthly sampling.

### **Flow Testing**

We have a Hydrant flow test scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020 in the area of 184 West Main Street. This is to verify system pressure and flow for an existing suppression system in that area.

### **Well 5**

Work began last week, but a tree service had to be called in to remove a partially snapped tree limb that was hanging over the power lines for wells five and six. The limb was removed that same evening that the call went out. This tree limb snapped due to the snow and ice weather that we received recently. The tree company that performed this removal has now been asked to come back with estimates for work needed in a few locations. The locations and possibly problematic areas are discussed. It is said that it is a great idea to get the trees and branches trimmed or cut ahead of the weather.

### **Weston & Sampson: Steve Pederson - Sewer**

#### **West Main Street Sewer**

The connection to the schools has been made and that flow meter is in place. There was some discussion on the Howard Street meter being a different style than what the town has and is used to seeing. It is intended for wastewater applications but there are concerns about the long-term maintenance. This line should not have any high readings, if any, because the schools are the only ones online and they are all at half session. Commissioner Grant requests that the school water meters get checked to confirm or deny that the sewer meters are registering flows as a checks and balances measure. The diameter sufficiency of the manhole is discussed with its relevance to changing to a flume meter which is currently being used in other town sewer locations. Steve Pedersen states that he believes the manhole is undersized, but he is waiting for a definitive answer. The biggest concern is that the sensor is in the wastewater and may get stuff caught onto it. Flow measurement methods and applications are discussed. Freeman Street force main is completed and the stub out to Freeman street is done. Now, it is down to doing paving for the winter which is in the works as of today. The permanent trench patches should be complete before Thanksgiving and will take all of next week. The state will be observing the overcuts and all of the next phase very closely because there is still a full lane with mill and overlay that will happen in the spring. They are required to remove seven inches of material and compact before paving. There will be two inches milled out and the final surface treatment with the



super paved product that is required by Mass DOT for the final paving in the spring of 2021.

Other than the street work, there is only punch list work at the pump station to be completed. That will be worked on after the street work is finalized so the pump station can be started up and connect the housing authority. Letters will then start going out to the neighbors once the sewers and pump station are approved for use.

### **Pay Request #13**

This pay request came out last week and was emailed to the board for review and approval. The quantities that are on it are recommended by Weston & Sampson for the board's approval. The amount is \$387,425.06. This is for work completed since the last pay request. This includes final piping. There is \$974,285 left on the final contract and it is mentioned that the paving is the big-ticket item on the contract. It is not expected that it will all be used because numbers are lower than anticipated at this time. This is a good thing. It is noted that there is \$200,000 retained and the pump station has not been paid to 100 percent yet.

It is mentioned that Mass DOT has a moratorium after November 15, 2020. Last year, they allowed the paving to continue beyond and they are allowing it this year also. Their big stipulation is that all of the trench work is done.

The pavers were given special permission to work on Veteran's Day which was beneficial with the earlier start time for the crews as they did not have to accommodate any school-based traffic.

### **Cobb Street**

There is a short-term immediate needs repair work package being put together under the current budget. It is the aim to have it ready next Wednesday. The work is mostly electrical dealing with replacing the generator and the conduit with all of the water damage to it and getting the blowers back online to get ventilation and then some lighting in the wet well. There is some discussion about replacing the generator after the conduit and water leakage are handled.

### **Tara McManus - Water**

The DEP did pass the new testing requirements for PFAS which is measured in parts per trillion. The significance is discussed among the board members. It is stated that the water department will be required to sample and provide results for the first quarter of 2021 under those numbers. Tara explains a few of the issues that can go wrong with the testing, but adds that they are funding the labs to do the testing's which saves several hundreds of dollars. The whole process should take two to three weeks and the actual lab test results should be seen on forms signed by the lab.

## **Well 5 & 6**

Work started last Friday and it is anticipated that they will be another two weeks continuing to drill and install the casing pipe. The next step after that is to take soil samples, developing and figuring out what size screen will be installed providing the right slot size. Then, the step after that is to spend a few weeks developing the well and then completing a 48-hour pumping test. The goal is to have the well casing pipe finished by the upcoming holiday with a secondary goal of being up and pumping by the end of December. The estimated time needed for this to be fully operational is about two months, but the aim is to have it done in six weeks. Well six work is just awaiting a signature. The erosion control measures are in place and conservation has been notified. The conservation agent will be out monitoring as needed. Safety precautions have been placed in the area, but Tara asks that everyone please remember that the active construction zone is the drinking water area. She requests that people keep their animals away from the site to avoid accidental or unintentional contamination of the town drinking water. Commissioner Grant asks about the underground piping and how the swap will happen. Tara explains the details and the steps that would need to take place for this to occur. It is said that it would be a spring item. She says the intent is to install a vault with a flow meter as well as an adapter. Conduits and power will need to be brought to the new wells from the existing building, but they are adequately supplied so there should not be any unforeseen issues. This work is intended to begin in April, if not sooner.

## **Water Treatment Plant**

The contractors have been providing several updates throughout last week and the last few days. The fans have been set up for the recycle tank. They have scheduled waterproofing for start on Monday of next week with the two-day process being completed on Wednesday. The dry time is either 48 hours or 72 hours. Depending on the watertight testing, it could be ready by next Friday or Monday at the latest. The punch list was reviewed with the contractors again. They have sent a revised punch list. The process of curing the epoxy is discussed between Commissioner Grant and Tara McManus. It is mentioned that some water did get into the tank after being emptied. That is discussed between the board members.

## **Motions**

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to approve pay request 13 for the amount of \$387,425.06.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Grant - Aye.

Commissioner Bishop - Aye.

Motion is approved.

Commissioner Steve Bishop makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Luke Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor: Commissioner Steve Bishop - Aye.

Commissioner Luke Grant - Aye.

Motion approved.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:16pm.**

**Next Meeting is on November 24, 2020 at 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: 11/10/2020

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Nye Brown  
Victoria Nye Brown

[Signature]  
Luke Grant, Chairman

[Signature]  
Steve Bishop, Clerk

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