

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

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
2021 JAN 19 A 10:10

Meeting started at 5:40pm

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

Superintendent Updates:

Rules & Regulation Changes

We want to make some clarifications to the water and sewer rules and regulations based on some incidences that we have dealt with over the years and again just recently. We have come up with some new wording to clarify the specifications we would like to add to the water regulations. The water regulation clarification is more of a hydrant flow test and fire pump test clarification. We already had the unauthorized use of fire hydrants in the wording with a specific monetary fine attached. The hydrants flow test and fire pump test must be scheduled through the water department office. Failure to do so can result in fines and possible service termination. The first offense will be \$1,000 plus water usage and any personnel expenses. The second and subsequent offense will be \$1,500 plus water usage and personnel expenses. This section, Section 5.12.1, encompasses any unauthorized testing of the fire sprinkler systems or mains going to the building and suction pumps. This section wording originally referred to sprinkler maintenance. The board is asked if there needs to be a vote for this amendment to be made. Commissioner Grant says that can be done in the form of a motion. See Motion #1 below. Superintendent Fournier states that he will be providing the board with the copy of the additions and clarifications that he wants to add to the Sewer Rules and Regulations in the very near future. It will detail that the tie-ins on the gravity sewer main are going to require a back water valve to be installed. This valve is designed to prevent any backflow into the dwelling. It is accessible through a cleanout and can be cleaned periodically without excavating down the the level of the cleanout. a short extension pole is used to remove the valve assembly. and recommended by the sewer department. The contractor is pleased with the design. Also, we want to limit the types of connections that are allowed in the sewer force main tie-in. He explains that each one of the glue-on joints that connect some pipes from homes to the town system have now become a failure point which allows for roots and such which become the primart cause for clogs. We want to specify that no glued pipes will be allowed to be connected to the town system. The pipe that has been predominantly used is known as N.HDPE Green Sewer Pipe from virgin PE4710 resin. That will be in the wording with that product as the required product or an equivalent based. Any equivalents have to be approved prior to being used. Commissioner Grant decides to table it until the next meeting.

Capital Requests

Superintendent Fournier states that he has put in his requests as of December 21, 2020. He mentions that he is trying to keep it to a minimum with the amount of projects already in play and Covid. We do not want to get our department into an understaffed situation in the event of a major quarantine. The MassDOT project is still going on, sewer station improvements will be performed at the Cobb Street sewer station. And phase five of the wells 5 and 6 replacement project. That estimate comes in at \$725,000. That estimate is in the capital requests. We will also have the White Street water main replacement in the capital request. This is a relatively small section of pipe from Kelly's restaurant to Bernie and Phyllis on East Main St. He explains details about the pipe that is there now and why he is replacing it. He plans to use the remaining funds from Reservoir Street to fund that project which should be enough to do so in its entirety. He goes into further detail on what is to be done and how. There is a phase two for the Cobb Street sewer station improvements which will be \$300,000. These include replacing the sluice gate, the muffin monster and cradle, repairs to the floor, lighting, ladders, ventilation work and all other critical worn areas in the wet well. This is also included in the capital requests. The Mass DEP sampling for PFAS is due by April 2021. We may know the results for PFAS from the well 5 new source water as early as January. This will only be an indicator. He mentions that it will be a very large expense to remove if it is found above the DEP MCL.

Lead & Copper Sampling

There were a small amount of samples returned by the homeowners the very next day as requested. Some phone calls and knocking on doors were needed to get the required amount of samples. These samples must be taken from a limited amount of homes that are approved by DEP. These are chosen by the structural building age and the potential for a certain solder being used during a specific amount of years.

Continued System Maintenance

There are now two more tanks scheduled for cleaning. We actually saved some money on the last cleanings of the Cottage Street tanks, the ground storage tank and the elevated tank typically go over the estimated quote with more than the estimated amount of sediment needing to be removed. The change in the amount of sediment is from the improved water quality which is related to the new water treatment plant. We are going to schedule the center tank elevated tank and the Mansfield booster station ground storage tank. The center tank is 367,000 gallons and the Mansfield booster station holds 3,000,000 gallons.

The superintendent requests that Weston & Sampson be brought on board to assist with the AWIA completion by June 2021. After review from the latest DEP and EPA this will require an upgrade to the department's ERP (Emergency Response Plan) manual.

He asks for Weston & Sampson to assist with any specific wording or adaptations needed in the ERP. He asks the thoughts of the board members on this. Tara McManus says that they should have the town employees do as much as they can and then Weston & Sampson will pick up any slack. Commissioner Grant expresses that he likes this idea of the Superintendent taglining with Tara on this. He says he wants to go ahead and initiate the first step.

40B for 195 Mansfield Avenue

There was a 40B discussed about a year ago for 195 Mansfield Avenue. This is located behind the McDonalds in the Roche Bros. Plaza. They have come to the water and sewer department with a preliminary set of plans for what the structure could look like and the layout of the property. They have asked for the department to review the water connections to the property and the potential for sewer and a hydrant relocation out in front of the property. It has been brought to the Superintendent's attention that 195 Mansfield Avenue is also going to other boards for approval. There is a permit that is called a comprehensive permit which is the agreement between the town for these 40Bs. That is covered by the zoning board and the wording that is on that permit is binding for all departments. There has been some discussion through email questioning who has the authority and what the rules and regulations are pertaining to 40B projects. In their wording, they are basically asking for discounts or waivers for service connections, permits, fees, etc. He questions Commissioner Grant about the 40Bs because he has been through a few 40Bs. Commissioner Grant states that it usually involves a significant utility like a water or sewer upgrade that theoretically is contributing to the town. If the infrastructure in place is insufficient to handle the additional flow that those units will produce, they can use them and the tie-in fees will be started. If the infrastructure is inadequate to handle their vast increases of flow, they will upgrade all utilities downstream to adequately handle their own increases of flows and they will make that contribution to our system at their own cost. At that time, we may possibly waive some fees but it is believed that the infrastructure is adequate, so 195 would be paying the fees. The applicant would have to put some funds toward having Weston & Sampson perform a review of their plans. The fee would have to be placed into escrow as proof that the applicant can pay and then released for payment.

Weston & Sampson

Tara McManus - Water

Treatment Plant

The contractor has confirmed that they have completed some of their additional updates to the recycle tank. The operators were attempting to fill the tank today or yesterday, so we should know if the repairs worked within the next few days. Discussions started with the contractor, Methuen, about assurances in writing for several different items including in case the tank sealing does not hold. Tara explains the other things that Methuen still has on their punch list. Commissioner Grant states that he feels that a portion of Weston & Sampson's time will be part of Methuen's responsibility as we move forward because of their continued heel dragging.

Wells 5 & 6 Replacement

We are still working on the casing pipe in well 5. The 48-inch casing is installed and been advanced 42 feet. They welded 50 feet of 36-inch casing and that has been installed and advanced to 47 feet. The next step is to weld an additional 10 feet onto the 36-inch casing on December 23, 2020. There will be no work performed on Christmas Eve or Day. They return the

Monday after Christmas. The intent is to wrap up the 36-inch casing next week and finish that. Tara goes on to explain the next steps in detail. We are aiming for an early February pumping test. Well 6 work should start around the end of January. More accurate dates for pumping tests will be stated at the first January meeting. Commissioner Grant asks about inspection frequency and would like it to be checked weekly, if not daily. Tara explains that she has an inspector on-site from Weston & Sampson that goes out to the periodically but not every day. She explains that there is no running water on-site at this time.

Steve Pedersen - Sewer

West Main Street Sewer

The formal pump station start-up was performed last Friday. All of the equipment was checked out and it all appears to be in good working order with the station. The items still on the punch list include calibrating the flow meter to read properly. That is being done now. The locks have to be replaced so the town can take possession with their own key system and we need all of the O&M manual information to leave the maintenance staff with the proper information they need to be able to operate and maintain the station. Rocchio is going to be putting in a formal request for substantial completion since the station passed the pump test and start up. He asks if there are any concerns from the board about acknowledging substantial completion. Weston & Sampson recommends substantial completion. Commissioner Grant says that he sees no reason not to approve it.

Pay Request

This covers all of the paving work and the last of the pipe that was installed in the ground. It has been reviewed by Weston & Sampson and recommended for payment. The amount of this application is about \$550,000. There is about \$225,000 still left in retainage. He asks for a vote on this. He also states that a SRF Reimbursement Request needs to be included. See motion #2 below.

Invoice #6

This invoice is for the housing authority. This is the final invoice that will go to them This is for \$283,378. That is the last payment to meet and close out their commitment of \$1,578,900. It is also noted that the HA is eager to tie-in as soon as possible and have a contractor ready to start work.

SRF Reimbursement Request

The SRF reimbursement request needs signatures before it can be sent out. It is for \$660,000.

Motions:

Motion 1.

Commissioner Bishop makes a motion to make the following amendment to Section 5.12.1 of the Water Department rules and regulations.

Hydraflow and fire pump tests must be scheduled through the water department office. Failure to do so will result in a fine and possible service termination. First offense is \$1000 plus water usage and personnel expenses. The second and subsequent offenses are \$1,500 plus water usage and personnel expenses.

Commissioner Grant accepts the motion and seconds it.

All in favor:

Commissioner Grant - aye.

Commissioner Bishop - aye.

Motion is passed unanimously and becomes effective immediately.

Motion 2.

Commissioner Bishop makes a motion to approve paying Pay Request #14 in the amount of \$552,241.59 to Rocchio Construction.

Commissioner Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor:

Commissioner Grant - aye.

Commissioner Bishop - aye.

Motion is passed.

Motion 3.

Commissioner Bishop makes a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Grant seconds the motion.

All in favor:

Commissioner Grant - aye.

Commissioner Bishop - aye.

Motion is passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Next meeting: January 12, 2021



TOWN OF NORTON

Water & Sewer Department

P.O. Box 1168 Norton, Massachusetts 02766

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

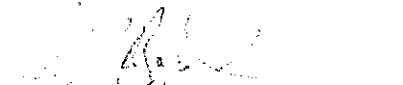
BOARD OF WATER/SEWER COMMISSIONERS

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING HELD: 12/22/20

Respectfully submitted,


Victoria Nye Brown


Luke Grant, Chairman


Steve Bishop, Clerk
