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**Town of Norton  
Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners  
166 John Scott Blvd.  
Norton, MA 02766  
(508) 285-0280**

**Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2023**

**I. Call to Order**

The March 15, 2023 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:34pm, by Commissioner Steve Bishop, Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner James Jardin & Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Also in attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, Office Administrator Brooke Durden, and Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus.

Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Minutes**

1. Minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**III. Superintendent Updates**

1. Chemical Supplier Update: We received an update from our Chemical Supplier, Carus, regarding their status after the large fire they had. Carus is anticipating having their Permanganate System up and running by the end of this month. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked how we were looking right now, as to which Superintendent Frank Fournier responded that we are looking fine since we have been under lower production by having Well 5A offline for a period of time which has helped us conserve a little bit. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that Well 6 was much cleaner than the original Well 6, which also helped us reduce the amount of chemical that is required.
2. Town Growth Meeting: Superintendent Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop and Town Planner Maria, attended a Town Growth Meeting with SRPEDD.

Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen was also invited to share his pdf version of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan with the goal to address any areas in town that could potentially be developed but they would need infrastructure improvements. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that this meeting was basically just a meet and greet and that the future meetings will likely be more involved with information pertaining to our department. The biggest thing that wasn't able to be explained during this meeting was the most common question that we are asked – why doesn't the whole town have sewer. Superintendent Fournier would like to make the public aware that the Water & Sewer Departments are Enterprise which means they are solely funded by their own revenues and since the Town cannot afford to build a town wide municipal sewer system, the impacts to the rate payers would be too extreme.

3. ASR (Annual Statistical Report)/CCR (Consumer Confidence Report): While completing the ASR, we noticed our unaccounted water percentage is higher than we have seen in previous years. The estimate that you want to be for unaccounted water is under 10% and right now we are around the 14-15% range. Superintendent Fournier mentioned this could be due to a number of factors including fire sprinkler lines that freeze and break during the winter, unknown usage from emergency vehicles since they aren't set up with meters, or flushing. Superintendent Fournier, as well as Assistant Superintendent Harrop, have also been working on the CCR.
4. TTHM Reporting: The February results of the TTHM samples came in well below MCL of 80ppb at all locations which eliminated any quarterly violations. Although we have not exceeded within the last two quarters, the elevated sample results taken in May and August still put us over for the locational running annual average. Therefore, a public notice will be going out as required by Mass DEP. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that the notice has been updated and has additional wording, as well as links for residents to use to self-educate themselves on TTHMs. As previously mentioned, we were looking forward to putting an aeration system in the Cottage Street Ground Storage Tank, and have also submitted three other additional tanks to Auchincloss funding to help remove TTHMs. Superintendent Fournier stated that if residents were concerned about the TTHMs, they could put the water in an open container and leave it on their counter for a couple of hours and the TTHMs would evaporate. It was also noted that we are continuing to flush the dead-end locations and anticipate starting the town wide Spring Flushing Program once Well 5A is approved for use by Mass DEP, which will also help lower the TTHM levels.
5. Auchincloss Funding: We received a last-minute notice that the Congressman has additional funding available for specific improvement projects. Superintendent Fournier spoke with Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus on a few options and came up with a list of items to submit. The replacement of the old water main on Plain Street was a topic of discussion which would basically be an extension of the Water Treatment Facility and would help alleviate pressure from the plant while improving water quality. If we have extra funding available, we will also look at replacing or painting, the water tank on Cottage Street.
6. Forever Chemicals: The EPA just released their new proposed limits for PFOA and PFOS dropping them by 94% making the detectable limit only 4ppt; however, the

goal is zero. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked when this change will take place and how many samples would have to be taken. Superintendent Fournier responded that everything hasn't been locked into place yet and the number of samples depends on the Authority. Superintendent Fournier mentioned the sample charges could increase if you have to test all the way down to the limit, as well as an increase in sending out notices if there are exceedances; therefore, we will likely have to make changes to our budget.

**IV. Peter Lavoie – Discussion of Proposed New Build at 192 Taunton Ave**

1. Peter Lavoie was not present at the meeting; therefore, discussion was tabled.

**V. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates – Tara McManus**

**Sewer**

1. Holly Road/Knollwood: The confirmation of voltage at Holly Road, as well as the final shop drawing submittals are pending. Weston & Sampson is recommending approval of pay estimate #1 for bonds and insurance for the Ardent Group Inc. in the amount of \$7,481.25. Assistant Superintendent John Harrop mentioned that this would come out of the ARPA money.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve pay estimate #1 for the Ardent Group for the Knollwood/Holly Road Pump Station Improvements in the amount of \$7,481.25. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Cobb Street: Phase 1 (Generator Replacement/Electrical Upgrades) – The pre-construction meeting was held on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Mobilization and the replacement of light fixtures is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. The delivery date for the generators is anticipated for late March/early April. Phase 2 (Wet Well Improvements) – Virtual Kickoff meeting was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen is anticipating on wrapping up the design in April as they are at 90%.
3. Elm Street Sewer Design: Mass Works Design Grant is executed; however, the Economic Development Bill Design Grant is still pending.
4. Norton Public Schools: Working with the School Department to advance the conceptual sewer layout and any anticipated cost for the connection of all schools on Route 123 to the municipal sewer.
5. Sewer Connection Fees: Weston & Sampson will provide some suggested revisions to the regulations in advance to the April meeting.
6. NPDES General Permit: A meeting will be scheduled with the Sewer Department to further discuss. Superintendent Fournier stated that we are a co-permittee with the MFN and there are changes to the regulations regarding required sampling. We are in the process of learning what those requirements will be.

### **Water**

7. As Superintendent Frank Fournier has previously mentioned, we will hopefully hear soon if the new round of Auchincloss funding will be approved.
8. Wells 5 & 6A: The State will be coming this Friday for the onsite visit for approval. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that all of the information has been provided and Well 5A will be online within the next couple of weeks which will be in time for Spring Flushing. We will switch over the VFD on Well 6 when Derek, the Treatment Plant Operator, is ready. Weston & Sampson is recommending approval for pay estimate #9 for Dankris Builders Corp. in the amount of \$26,776.41. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked how many more pay estimates were on the schedule, to which Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated she is unaware; however, they almost have everything completed.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve pay estimate #9 for Wells 5 & 6 Replacement Projects to Dankris in the amount of \$26,776.41. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. As Superintendent Fournier also previously mentioned, Weston & Sampson has been working with the Department to complete the ASR that is due at the end of this month, as well as looking over the PFAS information that the EPA released as a draft yesterday. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that although most people will be upset about this change, the water that is being produced out of our Treatment Plant will be in compliance.
10. Reilly Property: Weston & Sampson had a contract to take a look at the potential for the Town to purchase the property. Most of the land has a lot of environmental protected areas and although there is one little piece that could have potential, there would not be enough room to put a full well. However, a final report will be forwarded before next meeting.

### **VI. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance**

1. Commissioner Steven Bernstein would like to know if Weston & Sampson had a plan on how to deal with the new PFAS limit in the press. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that she has sent three different documents with information on EPA's guidelines and has suggested to Superintendent Fournier that a web page be set up with some resources. Commissioner Bernstein would like the public to know that the Commissioners are aware and are on top of EPA's guidelines.
2. Commissioners need to make motion to proceed or not with Article 14 for the Town Meeting regarding Well 4.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to go ahead and proceed with Article #14 for Well 4 funding at Town Meeting in the amount of \$900,000. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner**

**Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. Assistant Superintendent John Harrop mentioned that the Town Accountant stated that the Board can authorize one member to sign the bills, with a backup incase that single person isn't available. Assistant Superintendent Harrop mentioned this will help for the weeks that we don't meet.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Steven Bernstein for Jardin to be our bill signer. Seconded by Commissioner James Jardin. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to have Commissioner Bishop be our alternate bill signer. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. The Commissioners would like some information on Town Meeting Articles 15 & 19. Superintendent Fournier is waiting on more information; therefore, discussion was tabled.
5. Commissioner James Jardin asked for an update on an email that was sent by the Administrative Secretary in regards to a high bill at 313 West Main Street. Commissioner Bernstein read the letter that was sent from the resident stating that their hose was left on under the building which generated a devastating bill of over \$4,000 and would like the Commission's help in dismissing the bill. Superintendent Fournier stated that although this bill is definitely tragic and unfortunate, the water did go through the meter. The resident does have the right to request the meter be tested to prove its accuracy but unfortunately there would be nothing more the board can do.
6. At the previous meeting, Commissioner Bernstein stated how a resident in Red Mill Village was having issues with their water pressure. As recommended, the resident reached out to the Water Department to have a tech go down and check things out. Commissioner Bernstein wanted to pass along to the other Commissioners how much the homeowner raved about the tech and how wonderful their experience was with the Water Department. The other Commissioners were very happy to hear that and thanked Commissioner Bernstein for sharing.
7. Commissioner Bernstein stated that he represented the Commission at a meeting that was held with Superintendent Fournier, Assistant Superintendent Harrop, the Building Inspector, the Town Planner, and the Developers for Turtle Crossing. It was discovered that due to the delay in the project, a new comprehensive permit will need to be submitted in order to move forward.

## **VII. Bills & Correspondence**

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

**VIII. Next Meetings: April 11<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, & June 14<sup>th</sup>**

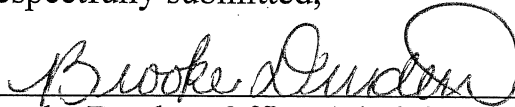
**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 6:56pm. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

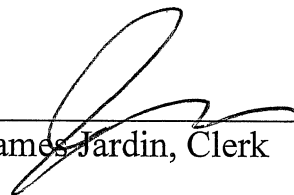
BOARD MEETING HELD: March 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

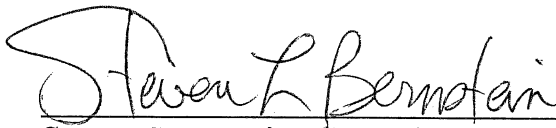
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Bishop, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Jardin, Clerk

4-11-23

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

4/11/23

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Date Approved