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

**Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

The February 6, 2024 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:33pm, by Commissioner Steve Bishop, Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner James Jardin and Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Also in attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Office Administrator Brooke Durden, Weston & Sampson's Ryan Henley and Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus via zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Minutes**

1. Minutes from the December 12, 2023 meeting were approved.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the December 12, 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. Superintendent Frank Fournier wanted to start off with some good news and stated that we finally received approval from Mass DEP to lower our PH levels, and wanted to thank Weston & Sampson's Ben & Tara for helping with this. Superintendent Fournier stated that we will bring the PH levels down slowly over time so we do not shock the system. Superintendent Fournier also stated that it will take some flushing to get it out of the mains and have some turnover in the tanks to change that water and slowly lower the PH. Due to this change, as well as the aerator system that we are in the process of working on, it will help lower TTHM's which will overall equal better water quality. The Commissioners stated this was great news.
2. Well 3 PFAS Update: As mentioned at a previous meeting, Well 3 was taken offline on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to submit the NON (Notice of non-compliance) was yesterday and Superintendent Fournier, as well as Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, worked with the engineers to come up with a list of ideas for temporary and permanent solutions to the

MCL violation. Superintendent Fournier stated that they met with Mass DEP to discuss the list of temporary solutions they would like to try at Well 3 in order to bring that Well back online, focusing on a blend of the distribution water and the raw water at Well 3. This is something Mass DEP hasn't seen before as typically two raw sources are blended together, so our request is unique. Our original plan was to dump distribution water into Well 3, right above the intake, with Well 3 running and blending it in the main; however, Mass DEP did not like the idea of blending the water in the Well. Therefore, Superintendent Fournier stated that the backup plan was presented which would be to put a small booster pump inside the station, tapping the water main and running a 2" dedicated water line down Well 3 to the booster pump, which is required to achieve the water going in from the distribution system because the pressure at Well 3 is higher. This method is a little more involved, as well as more costly, but we are pretty confident that this type of blend will work, especially because the PFAS levels in the distribution system coming from the other sources are very low. Once we prove the theory, as well as have the sample results to back it up, the engineers will put a stamp on it based on design and send it off to Mass DEP for review. Superintendent Fournier stated that we could do all of this and not receive final approval from Mass DEP; however, they seem to be open to the idea of everything that we have discussed with them so far. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that although he thinks this is a good solution for now, it will not solve the potential issue if the MCL gets enforced down to 4ppt. We are also investigating the possibility that PFAS could be coming from the chemical tanks or from the chemical feed lines which are all made of plastics and Teflon's, rather than the water itself. Sample results will show the differences between the raw and treated results to prove if that is of any concern. Knowing that we will need water from this location way before most of this happens, we asked Mass DEP what they will need from us in order to have that Well go back online. The first requirement would be to send out a new public notice because it's a change in operation from the previous public notice, as well as supplying a water fill station at another one of our sampled locations for any concerned resident to fill up clean and sanitary water bottles. We are currently working on plans to build and install our own bottle filling station near the entrance of the Water Treatment Facility that will be open to the public during specific times. Commissioner James Jardin asked if this would be unstaffed and if the water would be metered, which Superintendent Fournier stated it will be staffed in the beginning as recommended by Mass DEP to help educate the customers and we would meter it for our unaccounted-for water usage. Commissioner Steven Bernstein voiced his concerns regarding vandalism, which Superintendent Fournier agreed but stated that unfortunately the requirements set in place by Mass DEP trump those concerns; however, they can look into getting a camera. Superintendent Fournier also mentioned that after speaking with Mass DEP, we learned that there are seven new MCLs that will be implemented similar to PFAS; however, they provided no further information.

3. Well 1: As mentioned at a previous meeting, we were able to fast track the cleaning process at Well 1. The new pump came in and has been installed. Superintendent Fournier stated that shortly after having this Well operational, the Town had a rolling power surge and outage which damaged our flow meter at this location causing the site to be taken back offline. Fortunately, we did have product in-house and were able to replace the damaged items in under a week. This Well is now back online and the manganese levels are well below the .30 action level, where historically this Well would exceed every sample we took.

4. Lead & Copper NON: As Assistant Superintendent John Harrop mentioned at the last meeting, we have been running into difficulties collecting the required 60 samples and have only received 55, which triggered a monitoring and reporting violation (NON). This is a tier 3 violation and will need to be reported in the CCR for failure to collect. Superintendent Fournier stated that on top of those reports, we will need to revise the Lead and Copper sampling plan and see if there are any other homes that qualify. Unfortunately, the number of homes that qualify are very small and if any homes have house filters, or perform any type of upgrades/remodels, then they are exempt from this sampling because it's a treatment technique; therefore, we could see more of these types of violations in the future. Commissioner James Jardin asked what would we do if 100% of the homes in Norton changed, to which Superintendent Fournier stated that we would continuously get a NON unless the regulations change.
5. Lead & Copper Inventory Compliance: Superintendent Fournier stated that the deadline for the inventory compliance is October 16, 2024. This is an EPA requirement that all water suppliers need to complete a townwide analysis of every water service in town to prove what materials were used during installation. There are a few different options to obtain that information, the first would be to look on the Assessor's Database to see the age of the home and where you know the window they are looking for, you can eliminate some areas. The next option would be to use our plans of any of the water mains that we've replaced; however, that only proves what we installed and not what is on the homeowner's side which EPA wants to know as well. Superintendent Fournier stated that for the older sections in town where we don't have plans on and know it needs to be replaced, EPA wants us to verify the material at the corp, the curb stop, and inside the house. This will not only be costly, but also be a disturbance to the residents. Commissioner Bernstein asked if we had a GIS data system, to which Superintendent Fournier responded that we have a partial one that was from 15 years ago and only shows the gate boxes and hydrants that we had at that time, but we did not do curb stops. We are actively working on having our crew locate all of the curb stops and taking a picture of it, as well as taking measurements. The long-term goal would be to have all the information digitally and able to pull it up onsite. We have submitted our form to Mass DEP stating that we would comply with this inventory list by the deadline, which we can submit and have the majority of the town classified as unknown as long as we are actively populating and solving the problem moving forward. Commissioner Steve Bishop stated that the Town of Mansfield had some students from Bridgewater State come help with the GIS map at no charge and thinks it would be great if Norton did the same thing.

#### **IV. Wheaton – Request for Abatement of Late Fees & Interest**

1. We never received the abatement request from Wheaton; therefore, discussion was tabled.

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

##### **Water – Tara McManus**

1. As Superintendent Fournier previously mentioned, the response to the NON was submitted yesterday in regards to the long-term action plan. The next step is to work on the alternative analysis and take a hard look at the options for Well 3, as well as the potential treatment

over at the Treatment Plant. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that the majority of our system is being fed by the Treatment Plant and Well 1 which are below the MCL for PFAS, as well as EPA's proposed limits, which means the majority of the system is reduced PFAS. When Well 3 gets turned on, it may cause the levels to go over the 20ppt; however, Ms. McManus wanted to reiterate the fact that majority of the Town is getting their water from the Treatment Plant and Well 1. Ms. McManus also stated that she has been talking about budgeting and will be providing additional services under the general contract for Weston & Sampson.

2. Weston & Sampson will wait for the Department to wrap up their portion of the LCR and then they will help put together the mapping as they have all of our water mains, as well as hydrants and valves in the system.
3. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that they are very excited to have the PH level lowered and there is a good game plan moving forward for TTHM reduction and better water quality throughout the whole system.
4. South Worcester & East Hodges Street Area Water Main Project: Weston & Sampson will talk to the Town Manager in regards to the bid schedule for this project.
5. There is a meeting with EPA next week to discuss the Well 4 work, as well as potentially using the funding to supplement future PFAS treatment.
6. Weston & Sampson has made updates to the GIS periodically from projects including White Street, Pine Street, and Reservoir Street. They will also double check the GIS system to make sure the plans that have been sent over from the Department are in there and the edits have been made accordingly.

#### **Sewer – Ryan Henley**

7. Elm Street Sewer Design: We continue to make some significant progress and have developed a base map of what the proposed sewer will look like. Weston & Sampson's Ryan Henley stated that the goal was to show gravity sewer along Reservoir Street, Elm Street and Miller Terrace, with the main goal of providing sewer to the Reed & Barton property. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked if we need to do any upgrades to the pump station on Rumford Road, to which Mr. Henley stated that this will be part of the Down Shoot Capacity Analysis and they have done some draw down tests at that location and is still processing the data to confirm what the remaining capacity at that station is. A couple different force main options are being looked at, such as extending the force main from where the pump station goes to the Cobb Street Pump Station, with an alternative option of connecting into the existing 6" force main from the Town Center Pump Station that is located on Pine Street. There are four potential locations for where the pump station will go, with one being on a land preservation site. Mr. Henley stated that there is a meeting tomorrow with the Conservation agent to discuss the permitting if that would be where the pump station would go. Weston & Sampson's Ryan Henley also stated that they are looking to do some geotechnical investigations and subsurface boring investigations on Reservoir and Elm Street around mid-March. Superintendent Frank Fournier noted that although this project is focused on sewer, it will be a dual upgrade as the water main has to be replaced as well, including the water services to the property line. We will be attending an upcoming Select Board meeting to introduce the project and hopefully gain support to move forward to a Town Meeting vote and approval.

8. Holly Road/Knollwood: Gas services have been installed at both locations, and we are just waiting on the gas meter at Holly Road. The gas meter has been installed at Knollwood but we haven't heard on a startup.
9. Cobb Street Phase I: Everything for the generator placement is finished. One of the block heaters was leaking when they went to set it up, so they replaced it; however, it is still leaking. Superintendent Fournier stated his frustration and doesn't want to sign off on the payment application until this is fixed. Commissioner Steven Bernstein stated that if Superintendent Fournier wouldn't sign off, then the Commissioners shouldn't either, to which the other Commissioners agreed.
10. Cobb Street Phase II: The preconstruction conference was held on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There is likely going to be a change order for the permanent bypass they are looking to put in. Superintendent Fournier stated that a permanent bypass was never at this pump station, but probably should've been. We are still waiting for a cost estimate but Superintendent Fournier believes it will be around \$20,000. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked how much the Phase II project was worth, to which Weston & Sampson's Ryan Henley responded it was estimated at \$157,000. The Commissioners agree to move forward with putting the paperwork together for the permanent bypass, rather than a temporary one.
11. Peer Reviews: The draw down test that were done at Rumford Road go hand and hand with the peer review for 0 Reservoir Street. Weston & Sampson is looking at some alternative options for 0 Mansfield Ave to consider in order to provide gravity sewer down Mansfield Ave.
12. Norton Public Schools: Weston & Sampson is working on finalizing the memo for the Sewer Connection for them to determine how they are going to connect the Yelle School and the High School into the existing sewers. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen had a discussion with Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities, regarding the Middle School Treatment Facility and converting that into a pumping station to connect into the existing line. There will be a meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup> with the schools to discuss the options for that.

## **VI. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance**

1. Commissioner James Jardin stated that he received an alert regarding East Hodges Street being closed down for a culvert collapse and asked if that affected any of our stuff. Superintendent Fournier stated that it did not and that we have no infrastructure down there.
2. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that we are still working on finalizing the articles for Town Meeting. We are looking to reallocate some funds that are from very old accounts that we want to clean up on the books.
3. Commissioner Steven Bernstein asked for an update on the Balfour Farm Development. Superintendent Fournier stated the street is in and the owner was going to ask for the Town to accept half of that project with half being done; however, Superintendent Fournier recommends against accepting the road because it is not done to a standard where we can complete a walk through.

## **VII. Bills & Correspondence**

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

**VIII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 6:55pm. 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: February 6, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden  
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

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Steve Bishop, Chairman

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Date Approved

James Jardin  
James Jardin, Clerk

4-9-24

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

Steven Bernstein  
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

4/9/24

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Date Approved