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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 13, 2024**

**I. Call to Order**

The March 14, 2024 meeting of the Norton Water/Sewer Commissioners was held at 166 John Scott Blvd and was called to order at 5:30pm, by Commissioner Steve Bishop, Chair. Member(s) present: Commissioner James Jardin and Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Also in attendance: Superintendent Frank Fournier, Assistant Superintendent John Harrop, Office Administrator Brooke Durden, Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen, Weston & Sampson's Anna Wojcik, Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus via zoom, Eric Dias from Strong Point Engineering, and Peter Lavoie from D&L Design Group.

Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Minutes**

1. Minutes from the January 9, 2024 meeting were approved.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the meeting minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Town of Norton 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. PFAS Updates: As Superintendent Frank Fournier has previously mentioned, we will need to bring Well 3 back online by Spring in order to maintain the system demand; therefore, we will need to send out another public notice to notify the residents of the change in status. In addition to the public notice, we are also required to construct or provide a water filling station for residents that are concerned with what the potential PFAS could be in the distribution system once Well 3 goes back online. Superintendent Fournier stated that we only exceeded the limit by 1ppt, compared to many other communities who exceeded by double or triple digits, so we can assume the PFAS level in the distribution system is extremely low based on the blend of 6 million gallons of water that we have; however, we are going to build and are almost complete with a filling station which will be located in

front of the Water Treatment Facility on Plain Street. Mass DEP has recommended that this filling station be staffed. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked what the staff would be required to do and if we could use residents from the COA who would like to work off their taxes. Superintendent Fournier stated that DEP wants the staff there to verify that the vessels being filled are sterile, as well as someone who is a water technician and is educated in the background of PFAS, as well as someone who can explain the operations of the distribution system. The filling station will more than likely be open during normal business hours, as well as possibly doing one late night and one weekend day. Superintendent Fournier mentioned that there are some new regulations in the works from Mass DEP and EPA that could change the dynamics of how this will work. Thankfully, the water that we have been testing from Well 3 while it has been off shows PFAS levels that are well below the MCL and if it continues to stay below, the filling station will not be required. Superintendent Fournier stated that a letter was sent to Mass DEP with a draft template for information that we think should be on our website to help educate the residents, including a graph to show what our sample results have been and will be moving forward.

2. Update on Well 1: Well 1 is back online after the cleaning process. Superintendent Fournier stated that we are seeing some very impressive iron and manganese sample results there; however, after the flooding rains we did see an increase. We will keep an eye on that to see how it trends after the flood water subsides a little bit.
3. Quarterly Samples: As mentioned at a previous meeting, we have been performing our quarterly flushing for our TTHM samples and with the previous rounds being higher, we know there is a chance of exceeding the long running locational average even if we have a low number this quarter. Superintendent Fournier stated that he does not have those results yet but hopes to receive them soon.
4. As Superintendent Fournier has previously mentioned, we have received the letter from Mass DEP to lower the PH, which we are still working on that steady decline.

#### **IV. 0 Dean St – Out Post Farm, Final Plan Discussion**

1. Eric Dias, registered professional engineer with Strong Point Engineering, came before the Commissioners to present the final set of plans for 0 Dean Street – Out Post Farm. Mr. Dias stated that he previously came before the Commissioners proposing two small cal-de-sacs and discussed a hot tap on the water main on Dean Street. They have already received approval from the Planning Board, as well as from Conservation, so they are now looking for final approval from this Board. They are proposing coming in with an 8-inch line off of the road with hydrants at the end of each cal-de-sac, with an additional hydrant being at the beginning of one cal-de-sac, and will loop the two cal-de-sacs together with a 6-inch main. Superintendent Fournier stated that the Fire Department has already approved the location of the first hydrant, which will help with shortening the distance between the existing hydrants on Dean Street, as well as the location of the hydrants at the end of the cal-de-sacs as they are a typical requirement. Commissioner Steve Bishop stated that the plans are pretty straight forward, to which the other Commissioners agreed and Commissioner Steven Bernstein commended the engineer on a job well done. Superintendent Fournier asked the property owner if he had any idea on when the project would start, to which the owner stated that he was waiting on the plans to be approved and that there is a buyer who has 20 days from today to close on the property.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the final plans as dated January 29, 2024 for the water connections for Out Post Farm, 0 Dean Street for Strong Point Engineering. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**V. 192 Taunton Ave – Plan Discussion**

2. Peter Lavoie from D&L Design Group is representing Lobisser Building Corp for the proposed duplexes at 192 Taunton Ave. Mr. Lavoie stated that they are proposing four duplex units coming off of Old Taunton Ave with an 8-inch ductile iron loop that goes up the common drive, across lot two and then down the lot line between lots one and two, connecting back into Old Taunton Ave. They are also proposing extending an 8-inch ductile iron out to the duplex on lot four, with a hydrant at the end, as well as another hydrant on lot two. The two water services will be tapped prior to the hydrant on lot four.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve the plans dated 3/7/23 for 192 Taunton Ave for D&L Design Group contingent on reviewing the final plans. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VI. Weston & Sampson – Water/Sewer Project Updates**

**Water – Tara McManus**

1. Well 4: Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that she sent over an email today with a copy of amendment #1 for Well 4. Ms. McManus stated that they wanted to redo that amendment as we did receive the Auchincloss funding. We did go out for quotes for the drilling work that can get paid out of the grant money. Unfortunately, where we spent the money through a short-term borrowing process for Wells 5 & 6 it is not reimbursable. The original grant was for water quality improvements at Wells 4, 5, & 6. Now that we already replaced Wells 5 & 6, we are going to continue with Well 4 and then do a quick modification of the project scope to include water quality at Well 3. Ms. McManus also stated that we are looking to go for PFAS funding for Design work and continue on with an SRF program for construction.

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to approve Amendment #1 to the agreement for Engineering Services between the Town of Norton and Weston & Sampson Engineers for Well 4 Replacement Project in the amount of \$418,650. Seconded by Commissioner Steven Bernstein. Vote: Commissioner Jardin – Aye; Commissioner Bernstein – Aye; Commissioner Bishop – Aye. MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. Weston & Sampson is working on PFAS, as well as helping the Department with the water quality. Weston & Sampson will also go out with the techs when they do their quarterly

samples. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that they will potentially do their own sampling at several sites that will be added in order to compare samples throughout the system and try to get an idea of where TTHMS are forming throughout the system.

3. The signed contract for the Aeration Tank Project has been received and is moving forward, as well as the Storage Analysis Study and Future Tank Replacement at Cottage Street. Superintendent Fournier asked if there was a timeframe on the aeration moving forward. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus responded that they received the signed contract in February and the plan is to bid it at the end of the year. Superintendent Fournier then asked if this was a competitive market and if we should be concerned about the time of year to bid it, to which Ms. McManus stated there will only be a couple of bidders.
4. There will be some reappropriation of funding at the upcoming Town Meeting in May that can be used towards some of the PFAS work. Weston & Sampson's Tara McManus stated that we will go for grant funding for the design.

#### **Sewer – Steve Pedersen & Anna Wojcik**

5. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen stated that he will be attending the Select Board meeting tomorrow night to talk about and hopefully gain support to move forward with the Town Meeting Article for the Elm Street Project. Mr. Pedersen went over the presentation that he would be giving at the Select Board's meeting and started off by stating the design phase is entirely funded by grants, which the previous Town Planners Paul and Maria were instrumental in getting. There is also a grant put forward for a portion of the construction. The real driving force for this project is the potential redevelopment at the Old Reed & Barton property. Mr. Pedersen stated that although no one currently owns that property, infrastructure improvements are necessary. Although we are still gathering some final information for the cost, the Town Meeting article requests \$8.6 million for construction of public sewers and water mains to serve public and private properties in the project area of Elm Street. As mentioned at the previous meeting, we have looked at several options on where the pump station is going to go. As of now, the best option is on land owned by the Land Preservation Society, located at the corner of Elm Street and Miller Terrace. After doing some downstream capacity calculations, it was determined that the force main would have to run down to Cobb Street, as the Rumford Station would not be able to support the additional flow; however, we are also looking at having the force main go across Elm Street to Pine Street. Mr. Pedersen stated that they are scheduled to do borings for the subsurface data on Monday to see what the soil conditions are like. The next steps are to finalize the design report, file permits with Conservation, public outreach, finalize contract documents, and close out the design grant monies by the end of the fiscal year, as long as we receive Town Meeting Authorization.
6. Holly Road/Knollwood: National Grid will be out on Friday to install the meter at Holly Road. Once the gas meter is installed, a startup can be scheduled.
7. Cobb Street Phase I: The new block heater is scheduled to be installed on Friday as the old one kept leaking every time it ran. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen stated that this one will be a different style.
8. Cobb Street Phase II: There is nothing new to update as we are still waiting on the company to get back to us on the bypass option.
9. Norton Public Schools: Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen stated that there was a meeting held with the schools to discuss options regarding the treatment plant at the Middle

School. Mr. Pedersen stated that their plant has parts that need replacement which are significant costs, and they know they ultimately want to get rid of it. Therefore, they have asked Weston & Sampson to put together a scope to let them know what their options would be, as well as cost. Mr. Pedersen mentioned that one temporary solution could be to retrofit the system they have to a Title V system and bypass the treatment plant. The long-term solution would be to connect to the sewer.

10. Peer Reviews: 0 Reservoir Street is proposing expanding sewer from the Rumford Pump Station to their property, which would take some cost off of the Elm Street Sewer Design. Weston & Sampson's Steve Pedersen stated if 0 Elm Street wants to tie in then they would need to create the infrastructure consistent with what the Town would build in the future and that the Rumford Pump Station would be able to support this. As part of 0 Mansfield Ave's peer review, they were told that they will need to extend the gravity sewer line, which they have expressed their concern about the cost and have asked Weston & Sampson to do some value engineering. Commissioner Steve Bishop stated that he is willing to try and work with them on the cost as this will be beneficial to the Town.

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

1. Commissioner Steve Bishop asked about the Lead and Copper results, to which Superintendent Fournier stated that although we did not have an exceedance, we did not get the quantity that we needed which resulted as a reporting violation and will be listed in the CCR.

#### **VIII. Bills & Correspondence**

1. All bills were reviewed, approved and signed.

#### **IX. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **X. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Commissioner James Jardin to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners at 7:24pm. 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 13, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Brooke Durden  
Brooke Durden, Office Administrator

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Steve Bishop, Chairman

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

James Jardin  
James Jardin, Clerk

4-9-24  
Date Approved

Steven L Bernstein  
Steven Bernstein, Commissioner

4/9/24  
Date Approved