Minutes of the April 3, 2019 Water and Sewer Commissioner’s Meeting.
Present: Jay Spahl, Scott Zajkowski, Tom Fournier, Scott Piekarczyk, George Patrinos, Lori Smith
Absent: Fred Bazinet

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Scott Z. made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2019, March 6, 2019 meeting minutes and to accept the March 6, 2019 public hearing minutes, Tom F. seconded. All in favor passed unanimously.

39 Brentwood Dr. – Ken Kroll came before the board to request permission to tie into town sewer. He had elected not to tie in to sewer when it was installed on the road. The sewer gravity line runs right by the property and there are laterals in place. Scott P. made a motion to approve sewer tie-in for 39 Brentwood Ave. for the Kroll family, Scott Z. seconded. All in favor passed unanimously. Mr. Kroll is aware he needs to submit an application and tie-in fees.

141 Center Road – Keith Rudzinski came before the board on behalf of the homeowner, Rich Toomey to request connection to Fire Protection with a 2” line. Scott Z. made a motion to grant approval for 141 Center Road to connect to fire protection, Scott P. seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously. Mr. Rudzinski will complete the paperwork with the office and submit the fees. The board asked Mr. Rudzinski to keep George informed of the progress. Mr. Rudzinski said that the work will be done after Nichols College graduation.

Lot 19 & 20 Ridge Dr. – Andre Asselin. George spoke with DEP and they have no concern with pumping station #5 as it is offline and is outside of the 100 ft. radius of the pump station. Andre said that he is looking to build one house on lot 19 and that he needs to sell lot 20 with it for access to it. Andre said that there is a covenant with the Town of Dudley on lot 20 property that needs to be released before he can sell the property. George said that there is a section of pipe from well #5 that then jets across to Ridge Drive. Originally, this pipe was put in place to provide water to the mill. Jay asked Mr. Andre to provide the board with a copy of the deed showing the covenant so that we can research it and send it to Town Counsel to inquire about how to release it. Mr. Andre said that he is looking to connect to town water from Ridge Dr. via the private right of way for his property, and to install a private septic. George said the board would need to waive the requirement of a 1” or ¾”water line, then Mr. Asselin would need to install a meter pit at the edge of the road due to the distance of approx. 200ft. to the house in case of any possible leaks.

Update of Station 1 & 3. Well #3 is currently being used as an emergency source at this time. Based on George’s research and conversation with DEP, when we are testing for well #3 we could do some testing for a new water source behind the main station. The water source behind the main station is currently being used for just for testing. It still has corrosion control apparatus inside it. We would need to get at least 100 gpm. We will be able to do 3 test wells to be drilled in certain locations which would need to yield at least 100 gpm each which would provide an adequate amount of 300 gpm. George said that he just presented this proposal to the Capital Improvement Committee. DEP has given us permission to push the tank cleaning back a year as this is an emergency situation. If the testing goes well, next spring we will be looking to submit articles to put in 3 new wells pumping into the main station. George has
submitted articles for this in the May 2019 town meeting and if approved anticipates the drilling to begin in June 2019. If everything goes well and funding is in place, between 12 - 18 months we could have the new wells online.

Economic Development Committee- John Briare. John come before the board to discuss possible grant funding available that the board could tap into. He said that if the well testing yields encouraging results we could sit down with Ryan Fattman and Peter Durrant to try to get Governor Baker’s office to fast track the project. John also said that we could involve Don Johnson, Town Planner, to go for a Mass DOT grant. He said that there are hundreds of millions of dollars available in Massachusetts for shovel ready projects. Jay stated that with DEP mandates, alarm systems, etc. we are most likely looking at cutting our retained earnings in half for both the water and sewer this year. George said that he has a concern with the cost to remove some of the AC pipe in the town. Scott P. stated he believes that they should put in warrant articles for the May 2019 town meeting to ask for some money in reserve to have so that we are ready to go. John Briare agreed with Scott that it would be wise to borrow money now and have it here and available if you get a grant that needs a match. John asked the board to put something together for the projects and projected costs and he will research grants available to fund them. He will also research what is available at the state and federal level. John will talk with Peter Durrant to find out what is available in the supplemental budget.

John wanted to assure the board that the Economic Development Committee is very transparent and only has conversations at their once a month meetings. He said he put the Water Department on the agenda because someone came to them and said that there will be an issue because we are out of water. It was said that there was going to be an issue with the mill buildings because the senior housing sub-division and Jesse Road sub-division were approved we are going to be out of water. John stated that there are currently 3 developers who are interested in the mill, and another developer interested in the building on Perryville. The first was Wind Development who was looking to put in 94 low income family units, the second was a developer from Georgia who wanted to put in 100 loft style apartments 10 corporate apartments, with in ground swimming pools, fitness centers, etc., and the third from a Fall River Developer with a very similar project as the 2nd with 100 units. Jay said that the board was holding off on approving any sub-divisions for the last 10-12 years as water was approved for the mill and was reapproved on a yearly basis, if requested. There has been no request for approval for the last two years from the mill developer and as such the board approved these sub-divisions.

Five Year Capital Improvement Plan – George and Scott Z. presented the plan to the Capital Improvement Committee earlier tonight. Scott stated that they were very receptive to the plan and will be making their recommendation for the Town Meeting.

Revised Articles for the May Town Meeting – George stated that we have removed the article for the cleaning of the water tanks as we have permission from DEP to push that project back. The Water Dept. articles will include the drilling and testing of wells, and funds for the SCADA Communication System. The Sewer Dept. article will be for Phase II of the I & I Study. Scott P. stated that it may be worthwhile for our employees to attend a class and get trained on how to line pipes so that we can do that periodically to keep up with the I & I.
Water/Sewer Budgets – George stated that both budgets are being worked on and we are running into issues because of the increased cost of chemicals, over-time, and projects due to the breaks we have been having. He informed the board that there is new technology available that will allow us to closely monitor the water usage in the town and will enable us to identify problems more easily. This will also make the meter reading more efficient. Although the Department has been proactive in addressing any meter issues and repairs, this software will enable us to greatly improve this initiative and save the department money. Scott P. asked if the budget could support this purchase and George said yes. He would like to see more information on this software prior to moving forward with it. George was asked why the overtime was so high. He said that it was because of all the alarms and call-outs for breaks. Scott P. asked how long it would take the SCADA system to be installed once approved by the town meeting. George said it should be done in June. The board asked Lori to let them know when the meeting with the FAA is scheduled so that they can attend and discuss their concern with the rising Indirect Costs.

Water and Sewer Monthly Reports were presented. Water Dept.: bacteria samples came back clean, dug with Sewer at 45 Lyons Road, repaired a main break at Ramshorn/Corbin Rd., dug at 47 W. Main St. customer leak with a faulty curbstop, submitted implementation schedule for well #1 and well #3 and install for new water source, drafted articles for May Town Meeting, Stonakas Hydraulics performed maintenance on 3 PRV pits and found one 2” Ross valve in need of replacement. Sewer Dept.: plowed and shoveled all stations, dug with Water Dept. on Lyons Road, replaced base at 5 Laprise Ct, received camera, degreaser in all stations, called for pump 2 Dudley-Oxford Road, Inspected lateral for Fire Dept., etc.

Lori stated that we will be commencing with the Cycle 4 FY 2019 billing on Monday. She asked the board what they wanted to in regards to outsourcing the billing. Scott P. made a motion not to pay for the outsourcing of the stuffing and mailing of the quarterly bills as we feel it is included in our Indirect Costs, Tom F. seconded, all in favor. Unanimously, passed. Lori will let Rich know about this vote so that he will have advance notice and can make an informed decision on whether or not to outsource the billing.

Scott Z. made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm, Tom seconded. All in favor, unanimously passed.