

Minutes of the Water and Sewer Commissioners Public Hearing on March 6 2019

Present: Jay Spahl, Fred Bazinet, Scott Zajkowski, Tom Fournier, Scott Piekarczyk, George Patrinos, Lori Smith

Jay called the public hearing to order at 6:30 pm.

Revision of the illegal water usage and water metering tampering policy:

Jay stated that there has been an increase in meter tampering which has prompted this amendment to the current policy. The following amendment is proposed to replace the fine structure under Section 5 of the Illegal Water Usage and Water Metering Tampering Policy.

1st Offense: \$300.00 fine and *Calculation of average use for period of time unmetered.

2nd Offense: \$300.00 fine and *Calculation of average use for period of time unmetered, installation of tamper proof meter at owners' expense and yearly inspection by Water Department each year thereafter and referral to police/court for criminal charges.

3rd and Subsequent Offenses: \$300.00 fine and *Calculation of average use for a period of time unmetered, plus monthly physical reads at homeowners' expense if not able to be done during regular business hours, and referral to police/court for criminal charges.

***Average use is calculated as cost per person according to census and MA DEP average daily use per individual.**

Scott P asked why the proposed fines for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd offense is \$300.00 for each. The reason is that Town Counsel has advised us that we cannot go any higher than that.

Fees for plan approval extensions:

Currently, water and sewer plan approvals are good for a period of one year from the date of approval. The board would like to add a fee for plan approval extensions to the Water and Sewer Fee Schedules. Town Counsel has reviewed the three options submitted for plan approval extensions.

- A. Effective, March 6, 2019, permit fees for plans submitted and approved for connection to water and/or sewer will be due at time of approval and will be valid for a period of one (1) year from date of approval. Extensions may be requested prior to the expiration of the permit. If an extension is granted, a fee of \$50.00 will be due at the time of approval.
- B. Effective, March 6, 2019, permit fees for plans submitted and approved for connection to water and/or sewer will be due at time of approval and will be valid for a period of (1) year from date of approval. Extensions may be requested prior to the expiration of the permit. If an extension is granted, the fee shall double in price each year until the service is connected. Extension fee schedule: 1st year \$50.00; 2nd year \$100.00; 3rd year \$200.00, 4th year \$400.00, ect.
- C. Effective, March 6, 2019, permit fees for plans submitted and approved for connection to water and/or sewer will be due at the time of approval and will be valid for a period of one (1) year

from date of approval. Extensions may be requested prior to the expiration of the permit. If an extension is granted, the current permit fee will be due at the time of approval.

Per the advice of Town Counsel, we can either go with A or C. The board favored the 3rd option.

Amendment to the Backflow and Cross Connection Regulation:

An amendment to the Backflow and Cross Connection Regulation as was voted at the Feb. 6th meeting, however after the meeting DEP had contacted us to say that we had quoted an incorrect section of the MGL. The board will need to address this at the March 6, 2019 meeting. The correct wording for the amendment to the Control of Backflow and Cross Connection Regulation would be the following:

To add the following to Control of Backflow and Cross Connection Regulation, Section 3.2.6. In accordance with the requirements set forth by the DEP 310 CMR 22.22, Section 13, paragraph (e) of the Drinking Water Regulations: Devices which fail the test or are found to be defective shall be overhauled, repaired, or replaced and retested within 14 calendar days of the failure or from the discovery of the defect. The repair work must be done by a plumber licensed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the extent required by 248 CMR 10.00: Uniform State Plumbing Code. No person shall overhaul, repair, replace a device on a fire system without approval from the head of the local fire department pursuant to M.G.L 148 § 27A.

Upon failure the town will send out a 14-day certified notice of shut off and property owner will be informed that there will be a \$50.00 per day fine for non-compliance.

As there were no residents in attendance and no further comments, Scott Z. made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:35 pm, Scott P. seconded, all in favor. Passed unanimously.