

Minutes of the Water and Sewer Commissioners March 6, 2019 Meeting.

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

Jay called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm, even though it is not quite 7:00 pm., we will begin with some housekeeping items.

**Monthly Water Report:** George reported the following: Brian is back to work as he has been cleared by his doctor. Water samples came back good. George and Lori attended a meeting with Point to discuss automating the permitting process. This software would allow people to sign off on permits via email. For instance, prior to issuing any permits the Treasurers Office needs to sign off that there are no outstanding taxes owes. This system will make it easier for residents to get information on properties as well. This system would be paid for by adding \$10.00 per permit which would go to Point. Scott P. asked if we would have to have a public hearing if increasing the fees. Lori will check with the Town Administrator. Scott Z. would like more information prior to our agreeing to participate. George and Luke are taking an excavation course on March 19<sup>th</sup>. George and Tim will be taking an asbestos course on March 20<sup>th</sup> and Luke and Brian will be taking this course in May. Luke starts his D-2 class on March 13<sup>th</sup> and will be in class every Wednesday until June.

**Warrant Articles:** George stated that the warrant articles are ready to go. The first article is for \$200,000.00 to clean both tanks as required by DEP. George said he is still waiting for a quote from Underwater Solutions for this. He can adjust the amount in the warrant article if needed as long as it comes in before the deadline; Second article is for \$300,000.00 for the drilling of a new well for station 3 as it is an emergency situation (the \$300,000.00 is a conservative estimate and could go down to \$250,000.00 if everything goes right when they are drilling); and Third article is for \$55,000.00 for the installation of a new SCADA Communication System. These articles are being submitted with the money to be taken from Water Retained Earnings. There is also one Sewer Dept. article in the amount of \$56,900.00 from the Sewer Retained Earnings for Phase II of the DEP mandated Inflow and Infiltration Study. The board will have Lori inquire as to whether these articles need to go before the Capital Improvement Committee/FAA.

**Water Availability:** George brought up to the board his concern with the amount of water being pumped daily and the possible need for a temporary moratorium. We have two operational pumping stations in town right now, Station #3 and Station #6. Station #1 has had many issues with e. coli and is only used for testing purposes for the ground water. Station #3 pumps 310,000 gallons per minute for 24 hours a day. Station #6 pumps 200,000 gallons per minute for 18 hours a day. On average, we are pumping 560,000 gallons a day. His concern is if we have a break or a failure like the hydrant break over at Ethan Allen when the recovery time was a week to bring the levels up. He is asking the board for a temporary moratorium for any new sub-divisions and approvals on single family homes on a case by case basis. George said that he has roughly an additional 15 -20% left that could be pumped but he wants to keep that available in case he needs it for an emergency. He stated that DEP mandates that Station #6 has an average 287,000 monthly average pumping that cannot go over because of the static drawn down. Scott P. asked if stations 1,2,4, and 5 are able to be put in use again. George said that these stations cannot be used again for various reasons. Scott P. said that he feels that we should be

looking into additional sites for new wells. George said that he is looking into possible new sites in the West Dudley area.

Jay stated that there is concern with regards to the amount of water available for tie-ins due water pumpage and well issues, as well as breaks on the water side. George has been working with the Assessor's Office to identify possible new well sites in town which could provide water to West Dudley. Jay feels that we should put the brakes on for new requests for water tie-in's for the time being. There is some concern on the sewer side due to breaks and because of the I & I study, which has identified two main areas of concern. Jay feels that approvals for sewer tie-in's should be made on a case by case basis for now. Scott Z. stated that he does not feel comfortable voting on a moratorium tonight. George will put together some information on a temporary moratorium where every request is considered on a case by case basis for the board to review and take under advisement at a future meeting. Scott Z. asked George to put together some information for a possible water ban.

Jay stated that as it is now 7:05 pm they will continue with their posted agenda and begin with the acceptance of the Feb. 6, 2019 minutes. Scott Z. made a motion to accept the Feb. 6, 2019 minutes as presented, Tom seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

**Jay Kay Lane Proposed Development:** John Kwiecinski came before the board to request an extension for his plan approval for the Jay Kay Lane proposed development which expires on April 4, 2019. Scott P. asked Mr. Kwiecinski what steps he has taken in this last year. He stated that the plans are still being updated by his engineer and have not been sent to Planning Board or Conservation yet. Scott P. said that his concern is with issuing extensions for projects where there has been no progress while we are experiencing capacity concerns and other projects are ready to go but are waiting for permits. Tom stated that he agrees if people are asking for multiple extensions but in this case, it is the first request for an extension. Fred B. made a motion to grant a one-year extension to John Kwiecinski for Jay Kay Lane with an expiration date of April 4, 2020, Tom seconded. Motion passed 4 in favor and 1 opposed, Scott P.

**Jesse Road Proposed Development (Forest Rd):** Olin Richter came before the board to request approval for the water and sewer tie-in approval. This project is for 18 homes, three of which are on Jesse Road. The changes the board had previously requested have all been made. George stated that the Water and Sewer Dept. needs to be involved along the way to make sure that everything is installed where it needs to be. George requested a full-size plan for the office which Olin left with the board. Olin stated that it is expected to begin this project in the spring. Olin stated that they will be installing E-1 pumps and he is aware that he will need to purchase 2 additional pumps for the development in case of an emergency. Scott P. made a motion to accept the final blueprint drawings as presented for water and sewer tie-ins for the Jesse Road project (Forest Rd), Scott Z. seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously. Jay stated that the permit fees will need to be paid within 5 days of approval. Lori will send a letter out.

**David Haynes - Lyons Road:** David Haynes came before the board to request sewer tie-in's for a proposed 18 single family development off Lyons Road. He presented the board with the following overview of the steps already taken on this project: David Haynes came before board the in 2007 in the name of DHKJ Realty Trust and had a fully approved definitive plan. In 2009 he came in and received an extension of the approved plans right up until 2012. In 2011-12 he and his wife were divorced, and she retained the property and sat on it. In 2016 his wife came before the board and had the plans reinstated for 18 sewer permits. He bought the property back from his ex-wife in 2016 and had to rescind the

project at that time to build a single-family home on Lot 18. David met last week with Don Johnson, Town Planner, who said that basically all David needed to do was to move a couple of lot lines and he was good to go with the plans, the approval from Conservation Committee was still good. Project is ready to go forward if the Board will approve the 17 sewer permits. There will also be one 35-acre lot left in the back for open space or for one home. The board discussed the need to ensure that West Main St. and Eisenhower Dr. can handle this flow. Scott P. questioned the need for flow studies as we have not required this from the last two developments that recently came before the board. He stated that the previous flow studies show that there is still capacity available. Lori was asked to look for the 2004 or 2007 flow study. Fred made a motion grant to provisional approval for David Haynes to tie-in 18 single family homes to sewer for Lyons Estates (Truman Drive) which is off of Lyons Road contingent on Tighe & Bond's review, Scott Z seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously. George said that he would have our engineer talk with David Haynes engineer. John Grenier is Mr. Haynes engineer for this project.

**Control of Backflow and Cross Connection Regulation:** Scott Z. made a motion to rescind the Control of Backflow and Cross Connection Regulation vote from Feb. 6, 2019 and replace with the following: Add to the 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, Tom seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

**Illegal Water Usage and Water Meter Tampering Policy:** Scott Z. made a motion to accept the proposed meter policy as approved by Town Counsel by adding to Section 5 of the Illegal Water Usage and Water Meter Tampering Policy:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: \$300.00 fine + \*Calculation of average use for period of time unmetered.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: \$300.00 fine + \*Calculation of average use for period of time unmetered, installation of tamper proof meter at owners' expense and yearly inspection by Water Dept each year thereafter and referral to police/court for criminal charges
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and Subsequent Offenses: \$300.00 fine + \*Calculation of average use for 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 seconded, all in favor unanimously passed.

**Extensions for Permit Approvals:** Scott P. made a motion to accept the following to be included in the Water/Sewer Fee Schedules; 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 the 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, Fred seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.

**Monthly Sewer Report:** Attended a meeting with town officials and Andrew Leow of Central Mass Regional Planning in regards to the block grant, added chemicals to all stations and ran generators, and marked out numerous dig safe's for National Grid. Met with vendor for a demo of the proposed new camera set up. George said that he recommends to purchasing of this camera at the total price for the camera and add-ons, locator device and lifting hooks, for a total price of \$75,362.86. This product is under Source Well so we do not need to get three quotes. This should still leave some additional funds for future add-ons. The board approved the purchasing of this camera and the funding for the camera has already been approved at Town Meeting.

**Economic Development Committee Article:** The recent Economic Development Committee article was discussed. The board stated that the town does not get any water from Webster or Oxford. They would like to see the committee come before the board if they have any questions so that they can respond.

**Executive Session:** The board will not be going into executive session as it is an ongoing situation and we are waiting for some additional information.

**Propose DPW Public Hearing:** A public hearing has been scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the proposed DPW. The board asked Lori to post this as a joint Water/Sewer meeting.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm, Fred seconded. All in favor, passed unanimously.