

Town of Newton Utility Advisory Board
April 18, 2023

A regular meeting of the Newton Utility Advisory Board was held on April 18, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. via zoom. The meeting was called to order and the following members were present: Mr. Vrahnos, Mr. Carchia, Mr. Terantino and Mr. Schlaffer. Mr. David Simmons, Engineer, Mr. Michael Awertschenko, licensed water operator, and Mrs. Jacki Shackleton, Utility Collector, were present.

The first order of business was for approval of the October 25, 2022 minutes. Chairman Vrahnos motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Schlaffer abstained as he was not a member at the time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carchia. The minutes were unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

The first order of new business was for Andrea Vaccariello of 26 Church Street who had a leak in January that did not go down the sewer. Mr. Vrahnos explained to the new members that the board tries to work with people and waive excess sewer charges when there is a leak. He made a motion to approve the waiver of excess sewer charges and was seconded by Mr. Carchia. It was unanimously approved with an "aye" vote.

Mr. Carchia explained that if we had a system of all radio remote meters with a satellite allowing us to read meters daily, there would not be instances where leaks remained unnoticed, causing excessive bills. There was a brief discussion and he offered to draw up a letter to council asking them to consider upgrading the system.

The next order of new business was for William Duncan who owns 4 Adams Street for waiver of delinquent penalty. Mr Duncan's bill was returned by the post office, as he has an obscure mailing address of 4 C O Drive in Byram. Although that is a valid mailing address, the post office returned his bill. Since he never received it, he did not pay it on time. After a brief discussion, Chairman Vrahnos motioned to approve the matter as a one-time courtesy and was seconded by Mr. Schlaffer. Mrs. Shackleton stated that she would include stickers with the due dates in the letter stating that his request was granted. The request was

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unanimously approved with an “aye” vote.

Under old business regarding the water filtration plant, Mr. Awertschenko reported that new membranes were installed at the plant, and the lake is just spilling over the spillway.

In his engineer’s report, Mr. Simmons said that pressure chambers need to be replaced at the pressure reducing chamber on Limecrest Road. There is a ten-week lead time, so it should be done in July.

Regarding 122-124 Main Street, they renovated the apartments and added a fire line resulting in fees of \$60,000. They are now going to the Planning Board requesting to add four more apartments and if approved, will come back to the Utility Board for approval of same.

The Lead Service Line Replacement Program is in year two of a ten-year plan, and they have information on about 500 lines to date. Mr. Awertschenko found a website where property owners can fill out a survey and take pictures of their service lines to assist in knowing what needs to be replaced. Mr. Simmons stated that it used to be just lead, but now galvanized is considered lead and needs to be replaced. Mr. Simmons stated that he had to testify in the lawsuit regarding the uncooperative property owner near Fox Hollow that was mentioned at the last Utility Advisory Board meeting. The court ruled that the blockages placed by the property owner had to be removed.

Regarding the water allocation permit, Mr. Simmons said he has not heard back, but he is confident it will be approved. He was told by Joe Butto, Construction Official, that Water Street Holdings Apartments should be ready in October. They are still getting DOT access permits.

There have been dam inspections for the Morris Lake access plan and work on bridge Q6 on Main Street is continuing. The road had to be shut down for tie-ins to be made for temporary bypass. There were a couple glitches with welded pipes that needed to be replaced. In addition, that short period of hot weather we had recently caused pipes to shrink.

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There being no other business to discuss, Chairman Vrahnos motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Imhof. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jacki Shackleton