

**Minutes of the Board of Water/Sewer Commissioners  
January 12 2016**

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Wastewater Treatment Facility  
115 Water Street

**Present:**

**Commissioners:** Chairman John Tomasz; Commissioners Roger Jones, Robert Cook

**Staff:** Anthony Furnari, DPS Director; Joe Dugan, Chief Operator; Lisa Valcich, Business Manager; Bob Bradbury, Asst. Chief Operator; Kathe Talkington, Admin. Office Manager; Jon-Eric White, City Engineer, Tom Smolski, Superintendent Water Operations; Dan Lynch, Distribution Manager

**Guests:** Mayor Holaday; Councilor Sarif Zeid; Alex and Megan Sherr; Brendan Coffey

**1. Mayor Holaday**

**2. Appointments/Customer Issues**

Alex and Megan Sherr, 21 Withington St, Newbury, bought property in fall 2015. The property is connected to the Newburyport sewer system and the Sherr's are requesting approval to add two additional bedrooms to their home. When purchasing the property they were not notified that as part of the agreement to connect to the Newburyport sewer system, additional bedrooms are not allowed.

Commissioner Cook noted that a deed restriction is required when connecting to the sewer system those expansions/additional bedrooms are not allowed. Chairman Tomasz noted he had spoken with Jamie Tuccolo and that this is the first request for additional bedrooms after connecting to the sewer system.

Chairman Tomasz made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to allow a one-time exception to the policy that would allow the two-bedroom expansion at 21 Withington Street, Newbury.

Vote: 3 yes

Commissioner Cook requested the Sherr's submitted a copy of their deed to Mr. Tuccolo.

**3. Executive Session**

Chairman Tomasz announced that the Commission will move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation and that the meeting will reconvene in open session.

Vote to convene in Executive Session with Mayor Holaday, Councilor Zeid and Brendan Coffey in attendance:

Commissioner Jones – yes; Commissioner Cook – yes; Chairman Tomasz – yes

Vote to reconvene in Open Session:

Commissioner Jones – yes; Commissioner Cook – yes; Chairman Tomasz – yes

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cook to accept the December 14, 2015 minutes as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

**5. Water Construction Report – Dan Lynch**

Mr. Lynch noted the following:

- Service leak at Cottage Court repaired
- Checking on non-draining hydrants on Plum Island

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Water Construction Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

Commissioner Cook asked if a list of hydrants on Plum Island can be prepared. Mr. Lynch noted that work could be done one section at a time and that all hydrants need to be checked and repaired. He added that T's, valves and bolts also need checking and repair/replacement.

Mr. Furnari noted that this work may need to be outsourced. He added that while working on the culvert, emergency repairs slowed productions and other work was delayed. Commissioner Cook asked if the worst failures were at intersections. Mr. Lynch replied no – throughout the island.

#### **6. Water Treatment Plant Report – Tom Smolski**

Tom Smolski noted the following:

- Indian Hill Reservoir at 90% capacity
- AECOM conducted Emergency Response Training
- Lab inspection went well
- New sample site on PI needs to be selected – Blue Inn not in use
- West Newbury had mechanical seal failure – now back on-line
- Joe Sullivan working on upgrading computers/SCADA to eliminate 3<sup>rd</sup> shift

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Water Treatment Plant Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

#### **7. Sewer Superintendent Report – Jamie Tuccolo**

Mr. Furnari noted the following:

- Mr. Tuccolo is working with BETA on Graf Road project
- Working on raising diversion valves

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Sewer Superintendent Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

#### **8. Sewer Operations Report – Joe Dugan**

Joe Dugan noted the following:

- Need further adjustments on heat
- Carbon canister installed
- Verifying date of Permit Renewal
- Retiring effective January 15<sup>th</sup>

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Sewer Operations Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

#### **9. Sewer Pretreatment Report – Bob Bradbury**

Bob Bradbury noted the following:

- Waiting on three reports – if not in by January 15 will check
- Fog testing ongoing

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Sewer Pretreatment Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

#### **10. Director's Report – Anthony Furnari**

Mr. Furnari noted the following:

- Working with BETA
- Call from Margery Decker – bio degradable wipes

- Mr. Furnari will forward information to Board
- FY17 budget preparation
- Interviewing potential candidates for vacant positions

Chairman Tomasz noted the DPS building is progressing. Mr. Furnari added possible June 1<sup>st</sup> occupancy. Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Director's Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

#### **11. City Engineer's Report – Jon-Eric White**

Jon-Eric White noted the following:

- Diane Gagnon doing day-to-day coordinating of Inn Street Fountain Project
- Reviewing plans for 40R project at MBTA station
- Reviewing design and construction bid documents for West End sewer project

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the Engineer's Report as presented.

Vote: 3 yes

#### **12. Business Manager Report – Lisa Valcich**

- Budget in-line for expenses
- \$68K settlement for PVC pipe going into reserve account for water and sewer
- FEMA signed off on release – if approved \$312K
- Working on FY17 operating and capital budgets
- \$113K transfer for Environmental Partners Task 3 approved by City Council

Chairman Tomasz noted that the goal should be to have the rates remain flat for FY17.

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to approve Environmental Partners Task 3 in the amount of \$113,000.00

Vote: 3 yes

#### **13. Old/New Business**

None to Report

#### **14. Confirm Next**

February 22, 2016

March 21, 2016

#### **15. Warrants and Contract Signing**

Commissioner Cook made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Jones to accept the December 15 and January 1 warrants as presented

Vote: 3 yes

#### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Jones made a motion, seconded by Commission Jones to adjourn.

Vote: 3 yes

Submitted by:

Kathe Talkington