

Meeting Minutes
Charlton Water and Sewer Commission
Date: April 8, 2013

Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

Attendees:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
John Elliott, Sr.	Y	Joseph Haebler	Y
Robert Lemansky	Y	Paul Gagner	Y
Joseph Spiewak	Y		

6:00 p.m. Mr. Lemansky: I'd like to call to order the Water and Sewer Commission meeting of April 8, 2013. The first order of business is warrants and commitments: Mr. Gagner: I make a motion to approve the following warrants: AT&T: \$37.66; Ricoh USA, Inc.: \$142.27; Osterman Propane: \$1,086.70; and Carol A. Goodspeed: \$57.08 for a grand total of \$1,323.71; Woodard & Curran: contract operations for April: \$42,253.00; Industrial Pump Sales & Service Inc.: parts; labor; costs in connection with repair of equipment at the MTA 5E pump station: \$1,978.11; Cosgrove & Blatt: legal services for the MTA: land transfer – ExxonMobil: \$253.75; Commissioner payroll: \$400.00; Abatement warrants: 96 Worcester Road: \$2.84; 123 City Depot Road: \$33.40 totaling \$36.24; seconded by Mr. Haebler. Mr. Lemansky: Any discussion? I reserve the right to general discussion later on about this bill of sale on the sewer/water line. Mr. Lemansky: All in favor? Vote: Unanimous. The next order of business is to review and approve former minutes. We are looking at minutes of February 11th, February 25th, March 11th and March 25th. Mr. Haebler: I make a motion to accept the minutes of February 11th and February 25th, March 11th and March 25th; seconded by Mr. Gagner. Discussion: The commission discussed and agreed that one change was to be made to the minutes of March 11th; and one change was to be made to the minutes of March 25th. Mr. Lemansky: So what we need is a modification of the motion to change the acceptance of the minutes of meetings to February 11th and February 25th as printed. Do you accept that modification? Mr. Haebler: Yes; seconded by Mr. Gagner. Mr. Lemansky: So we have a motion to accept the minutes of February 11th and February 25th. All in favor? Vote: Unanimous.

Old Business: Mr. Lemansky: The bill of sale for the sewer line for Masonic Home – I still don't understand the need of it. We keep on paying the legal bills. The only one I do understand is making sure that we have some document relative to the water line that is hanging from the bridge that goes over the turnpike, because we don't own that bridge. That's part of the MTA. Anything in our streets that the commission had given approval to put in as part of the process – this is town property and we are letting you put this in, but it does not mean you own it. I will talk to Robin about it again. Mr. Haebler: It should not keep going on and on. Mr. Lemansky: I think we may be asking for something we don't need. When Storz did the extension; we gave the approval. As part of the approval process, it was intended that the infrastructure that's going to be within the easement of a road, we accept it. Mr. Haebler: How long ago was the sewer line put in at Overlook? Mr. Lemansky: 8-10 years ago. Actually it was put into place when they did the large expansion. The first portion was the sewer line that empties into Charlton Center. Then when the construction of the resident area was built, that's when we had the cost of the upgrade to the plant. You have to come and ask permission to put it in the road; then permission is given. Mr. Haebler: Do we have the minutes of the meetings where they went through that process? Mr. Lemansky: I'm sure if we went back through the minutes. Mr. Spiewak arrived. Mr. Lemansky to Mr. Spiewak: We are accepting two of the four sets of minutes in the orange folder and the warrants in the purple folder are the ones we did accept. Mr. Gagner: I put sewers in Auburn and I never had to sell them to the town. Once they were in, the town owned them. If they ask permission, there should be a statement at that time that once the work is done, the town owns them. This should not attract all of these attorney's fees. Mr. Lemansky: Chris was going to drop off the actual paperwork for Muggett Hill that we need to sign. I would like to entertain a motion that we accept the contractor who had won the bid – the second from the lowest: Ricciardi Contractors; and I believe Mr. McClure has done all of his fact finding. He called me today and said that everything was all set. Mr. Elliott: They were the lowest responsible bidder. I need a motion. Mr. Elliott: So moved. Mr. Haebler seconded the motion. Mr. Lemansky: We have a motion and a second. Any further

discussion about that? Mr. Spiewak: Did we settle on the funding sources for that? Mr. Lemansky: I was told by our administrator that funds are available today. We cleared that with the town accountant. It didn't have to wait until July 1. **Vote: Unanimous.**

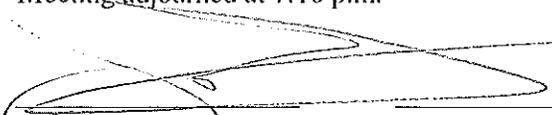
Mr. Lemansky: I have the long-term agreement with the Town of Southbridge. There has been work done by Charlton and Southbridge on the agreement. We did have a meeting five weeks ago and we seemed to come to an impasse. I think in looking forward, I want to be positive. In the meantime, as responsible commissioners, if we are unable to obtain a long-term agreement for an additional 400,000 gallons of water with Southbridge, we have to be prepared for another plan. Probably four or five years ago, we sat down with Southbridge and came to the new IMA agreement to where not only would Southbridge deliver 100,000 gallons of water; they would be our water operator. I believe we had agreed to stop looking for water and would stay on course with working towards a long-term agreement. As good stewards of the town and of our water pipes, the time has come where we need to hedge all of our options here. I think we need to send a notice that our commitment to stop looking for water has changed because of current conditions, and we have no other choice but to change that now. I'd like to entertain a motion to send a letter to the Town Manager to that extent. Mr. Haebler: I am just wondering if we need to discuss this in Executive Session. Mr. Lemansky: It was a verbal agreement, not a written agreement. Before we go into Executive Session, I want to talk about the Tighe & Bond report as to water options in the southeast portion of town. Do we want to begin to incur some engineering costs as far as modeling goes? Mr. Elliott: I agree with Mr. Haebler. This is going to take some more discussion. Let this run its course a little longer with the letter we have already sent out.

Mr. Lemansky: Does anyone have any additional subjects that they need to bring up? Mr. Haebler: We should consider at some point revisiting the sewer rates. The last time we did it was about five years ago. It doesn't have to be immediately. We need to revisit them from time to time – maybe in the fall. We do have to have a public hearing on that if we are changing the rate. Mr. Lemansky: Steve had said 2 years ago that we needed to change the rates. We're pretty much even with our expenses vs. income. We do have some retained earnings. Mr. Elliott: We're not under the gun to raise any of our rates. Mr. Lemansky: Last Wednesday I attended the Expo at the DCU Center in Worcester. In one of the seminars, they talked about rate setting. They said 1.25% of your town's median family income is what they can afford to spend for water and/or sewer. They were basing it on your ability to pay. Bottom line is, I think we are all committed here to deliver the best possible product for the lowest price. Anything else anybody? The only thing I do want to say, this will be the last time Mr. Elliott will be on camera because he is not running for re-election. I personally would like to thank him for his six years of service, his dedication and also the value that he brought to this commission; and the hundreds of thousands of dollars with his knowledge has saved both the water and sewer departments over these last six years—a sincere thank you. If we need you, we'll call you for advice. Mr. Haebler: I'll second that. Thank you John. The other commissioners thanked Mr. Elliott.

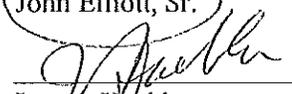
6:30 p.m. Mr. Haebler: I make a motion that we go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase exchange, lease, and value of real property; and to reconvene in open session for the purpose of adjournment; seconded by Mr. Gagner. Roll call vote: Mr. Spiewak: yes; Mr. Elliott: yes; Mr. Lemansky: yes; Mr. Haebler: yes; Mr. Gagner: yes.

7:16 p.m. Mr. Haebler: I make a motion that we end Executive Session to come out to public session for the purpose of adjournment; seconded by Mr. Gagner. Roll call vote: Mr. Elliott: I; Mr. Spiewak: I; Mr. Lemansky: I; Mr. Gagner: I; Mr. Haebler: I. **Vote: Unanimous.** Mr. Gagner: I make a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Haebler. **Vote: Unanimous.**

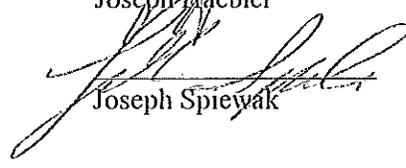
Meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.


John Elliott, Sr.

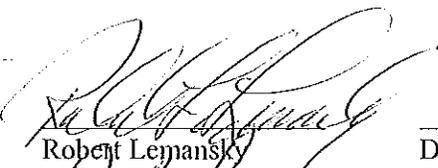
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Joseph Haebler

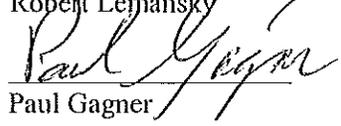
Date


Joseph Spiewak

Date


Robert Lemansky

Date


Paul Gagner

Date

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