

Meeting Minutes
Charlton Water and Sewer Commission
Date: April 22, 2013

Location: 8A Worcester Road, office at the sewer treatment plant

Attendees:

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

Recording of minutes by Carol Goodspeed, Department Assistant

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Gagner at 6:00 p.m. at 8A Worcester Road, the sewer plant. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the following warrants: miscellaneous warrant: Charlton Gas & Market LLC: \$1,291.39; Verizon: \$435.75; Poland Spring Direct: \$3.58; Osterman Propane: \$710.13; total: \$1,149.46; National Grid: \$8,250.39; Bigelow Electrical Co., Inc.: \$526.15 (for work at MTA 6W); Alarm Works: one year contract (5/1/13 – 4/30/14): \$300.00; The Abrahams Group: Invoice #2: water betterment project for the period 8/1/11 – 5/4/12: \$884.45; The Abrahams Group: Invoice #8: water betterment project for the period from 7/23/11 through the project closeout: \$900.00; Abatement warrant: 40 Main Street: \$1,180.80; seconded by Mr. Haebler. (6:05 p.m.: Mr. Lemansky and Mr. Elliott arrived.) Mr. Spiewak: We have two sets of minutes that we had sent back for edits at our last meeting. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion that we approve the minutes of March 11, 2013 as amended; seconded by Mr. Haebler. Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion that we approve the minutes from March 25, 2013 as amended; seconded by Mr. Haebler. Mr. Spiewak: Any discussion? Mr. Haebler: Those minutes were corrected. Vote: All in favor except for Mr. Gagner. Mr. Gagner abstained from the vote as he was not present at that meeting. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 8; seconded by Mr. Haebler. Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion that we approve the Executive Session minutes of April 8; seconded by Mr. Haebler. Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Gagner continued the meeting. Steve reported on the hydrant damage on Carpenter Hill Road. We should be receiving a check within a week. There is an Executive Session meeting between the Board of Selectmen and the Water and Sewer Commission on Thursday, April 25th from 5 p.m. – 6 p.m. Mr. Spiewak will arrive at that meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m. due to work commitments. Steve continued with his report. There have been telephone calls back and forth with Liberty Mutual. Sewer plant operation: There was an issue over the weekend – a clogged sewer line on Sunset Drive. The house has been vacated for about a year; the line was solidly packed with stuff. Mr. Gagner: Is the homeowner looking for an abatement? Steve: I will speak with the homeowner. The clog was on our property. It was in the right-of-way. Mr. Lemansky: It was on the street side of the backflow preventer. It backed into this unoccupied home (vacant for 1--1-1/2 years). Was any consideration given to jetting? Gabe Berthiaume had offered them a small jetting machine if it was able to overcome the clog. Mr. Lemansky: Should we have a portable jetter? Steve: Woodard & Curran has a jetter. It has been used on 6" and 8" lines. I don't know what its limitations are. Mr. Gagner: Any claims for damage inside the house? Steve: I spoke with Jody and the inside had been cleaned and chlorinated; and he felt it was good. Steve continued with his report: May 20th – there is a Water and Sewer Commission meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Do you want to keep the meeting on that date or change the date? The commission agreed to leave it there. Steve: I have two vacation requests: June 25 – 28 and July 1 – 5. Vacation not used in the year it is prescribed cannot be carried over. Mr. Lemansky had concerns as to someone always being in the office. Carol explained: We work out vacations to make certain that one of us is always here. The commission agreed to Steve's requests.

Charlton City activation: Mr. Lemansky: Do we go forward with this and improve the water flow? Are we going to look for another supplier? We are at \$126,000 with everything per Steve. Mr. Lemansky: To improve the water quality in Charlton City which would shut off the blowoff that they are requiring—do we want to spend

those dollars? Mr. Gagner: I think we should wait a little longer. If it is going to be long term, Honey Farms may not keep agreeing to pay for it. Mr. Lemansky to Steve: Where are we with this? Steve: Honey Farms did not accept taking the six quarters away. The six quarters are going to stay. Mr. Lemansky: We as a commission in the Charlton City area could impose a connection fee of \$5,000 per connection. Mr. Elliott: Aren't they paying \$2,000 for each connection? Mr. Lemansky: The people connecting are paying that fee. For a different supplier, we are looking at three years out. Mr. Elliott: It's in our town. It's our water system. Mr. Lemansky: We have to ask ourselves: are we throwing good money at a bad project? Mr. Elliott: I don't think we are. Mr. Gagner: There should be a limit on charging people. Mr. Lemansky: We have a legal opinion from Jeanne McKnight. If we want to add an additional fee for a specific area for water, we can make people aware that this is only for the blowoff. If we don't use all the money, we return money to the people. Mr. Lemansky: The blowoff will be x amount of g.p.d. to y amount of g.p.d. That dollar figure has been determined: \$7,500 per quarter was the max. Mr. Lemansky: We have to fund it one way or another. We haven't factored in the testing which could be \$300 per week (\$3,600 in 12 weeks).

6:36 p.m. Jody St. George of Woodard & Curran met with the commission and read his report. A new sludge mixer was ordered to replace the one that failed as reported last month. Jody suggested repairing the old mixer and putting it away as a spare because all four mixers are the same. Paul McNeil arrived at 6:40 p.m. Jody: Cost of a new mixer is \$5,000.00; \$3,000.00 to repair the existing one. It doesn't make sense to repair it. Jody has two mixers that are 15 - 16 years old (one went down). The other two mixers are about 6 -7 years old. Mr. Lemansky suggested to Jody that he order a second new one. Jody: I like to have spare parts. Just let me know. It takes 6-8 weeks to order and receive a new mixer. Mr. Lemansky: What about the data loggers? Steve: I asked Chris to come over and train us. They want to turn everything over to us. Mr. Gagner: Do you want to make any motions to repair the sludge mixer? Mr. Haebler: **I make a motion that we authorize Jody to get a new sludge mixer to replace the existing one that's 15 years old; seconded by Mr. Lemansky.** Discussion: This would be a spare. Mr. Lemansky: Do we have money? Steve: Yes, \$5,000 from capital. **Vote: Unanimous.** Mr. Lemansky: Where are you with Todd Girard on the GIS? Steve: We had set up an appointment – it happened when I was out; so we are trying to reschedule a meeting with Chris, Jody and me. Jody: I understood that the equipment was lacking in the software. Todd was saying there wasn't software to analyze the condition of a manhole; it would just plot a point. There is separate software we would need. Mr. Lemansky: I thought we were bringing in Matt Franz with his equipment; you were making your log notes (depths, etc); and then information would go into the sewer data base. Steve: Entering the description of the manhole, condition of it, etc.; these are done by manual input. Mr. Lemansky: The purpose of needing money now was they were going to bring the equipment from Central Mass Planning. The equipment is in Todd's possession. Steve was with Todd on Tuesday of last week. Jody, Steve and Todd will meet. We have committed to it. Jody: 197 Sunset Drive: the ejector pump wouldn't empty the tank; so we installed a brand new pump. We went to the road 8 feet in from the edge of the pavement. We opened up the ball valve; took out the check valve; tried to snake the line but the pipe was packed with solid material; moved up to the street to the live side of the pressure main; and continued to try to free up the line. Helgerson was called and came (Sunday night); tried to pump out the line; but it was totally plugged up. Then Tuesday night at 5:30 p.m. we went there and no success; next morning Jody called Slim's Sewer Service – he has sewer rods. Jody: My 2 guys, Russ Jennings and me. We spent 4-1/2 - 5 hours or so. The line was totally cleaned out. No one has lived in the property for a year. Jody indicated that the toilet should have been flushed once a week even though the property was vacant. Jody concluded his report, a copy of which is attached.

Paul McNeil of Williamson Environmental arrived at 7:06 p.m. Discussion of the water blowoff agreement. My client does not want to move on the six quarter section. Mr. McNeil: Honey Farms isn't in the business of supplying water. They feel they have been fair in paying for the blowoff for six quarters. There is no reason why the interconnection could not get done within 1-1/2 years. We are revisiting everything with Southbridge. Mr. McNeil talked to Heather Blakeley in Southbridge. She indicated that there were some issues with the long-term agreement. It is their resources that they are losing in an area where every drop is needed. Mr. Lemansky: Carpenter Hill Road and Gillespie Road—need to come up with a fair agreement. We haven't factored in the testing that needs to take place (\$1,100 - \$1,200 a month). Mr. Iandoli wants \$6,000 for the first quarter; then

\$4,000 per quarter after that. Mr. Lemansky: If we don't use \$4,000, there is no carry over. Mr. McNeil: You would get a bill from Southbridge. We would pay it. Honey Farms has contributed \$24,000 towards the cost of running Charlton City. I am telling the commission that we're at an impasse. We should consider putting in place a tie-in fee for Charlton City and then if we don't use the tie-in fee, offer the people an abatement. Mr. McNeil: How many more people do you think you are going to sign up? As of now, Honey Farms is willing to put this much money up that will cover you for 1-1/2 years and no one else in Charlton City has to worry about a connection fee that is related to the blowoff. Mr. Lemansky: We have this fee. It is an extraordinary fee that we have as far as Charlton water goes just for this specific area in Charlton because of the following reasons: we have to blow the water off; we have to test it; and we have to meet all of the requirements of Southbridge. For us, we will spend \$130,000. During this interim period, we're telling customers this is what the tie in fee is. Mr. McNeil: If you put the tie-in fee at \$2,000, the total tie-in fee for the average person will be \$4,500. How many people will pay that? My suggestion is take the best of both worlds. You get a year and a half of payments for your blowoff. If at that point you still need to do it, put your fee on top of that. Mr. Lemansky: Won't it be unfair to people later on? Mr. McNeil: What about the people who are tied in already on the Southbridge side? They paid a lot less. Mr. Lemansky: We do have the opportunity to have a way of funding the expense. Mr. McNeil: You have 1-1/2 years of funding it right now on the table. \$24,000 is more than enough to fund it. Mr. Lemansky to Steve: We ended up saying \$24,000 with no cap on the time. That was the counteroffer. Mr. McNeil: It doesn't give you people any incentive to push to get your interconnection done in 1-1/2 years. At that point, you have the \$24,000. That could give you four years of water blowoff. You still have to do testing. You have four years of blowoff and now it's not such an urgency. I think most people would agree that making this interconnection is the right way to go. I think having a time limit lights the fire and gets it done in 1-1/2 years. Mr. Lemansky: We have available funds. Mr. McNeil: My client is not a water company. You have water blowoff for 1-1/2 years right now. I understood that the testing was part of the cost of the water. Mr. Lemansky: Southbridge is leaving the burden of testing up to us. Mr. McNeil: Give me the cost of the testing. Mr. Lemansky: \$300 per week; \$1,200 a month; 5 different tests to be done twice a week. Mr. McNeil: We are hoping to utilize the test results to scale back the testing. We thought the total cost of the blowoff was included in the cost of the water. Mr. Lemansky: We didn't realize that Southbridge was going to leave the testing of the blowoff up to us. Mr. McNeil: Southbridge gave you the requirements that they want. Steve: They wanted a licensed operator to do testing. Mr. McNeil asked to see the specs on the testing. I will let Honey Farms know about the additional expenses. Honey Farms did not go for moving off the six quarters. My client is willing to pull back and work under the MPC. Mr. Gagner: We thought the testing would be less than \$4,000. In the agreement right now, Honey Farms will pay the blowoff bill. As time goes by it will be less. Paul will work with Steve. Mr. McNeil: This deal needs to get done quickly for everyone's benefit. Mr. Gagner: The blowoff may be less than \$4,000 per quarter at which point you might be able to do the testing also for a total of \$4,000. Mr. McNeil: I think I could sell that they would put any additional monies over the cost of the water blowoff up to the \$4,000 for the water testing. When do you meet again? Mr. Gagner: May 6th is our next meeting. Mr. Lemansky: In my mind, our flushing and chlorinating started today. We are 7-10 days from getting the ok from the DEP. I'm saying that if this deal isn't done, I will say to the other gentlemen that the water isn't going to get turned on. We will re-flush and re-chlorinate again until this gets squared away; or we will put into play a fee structure. Let's try to expedite this. Mr. McNeil will get back to Steve within a couple of days.

7:27 p.m. Mr. Lemansky to Mr. Haebler: The article in the newspaper. Mr. Haebler wanted a copy of it. Mr. Lemansky: I was taken back by the article in the newspaper and the misinformation in the article. I had a discussion with the editor of the Telegram & Gazette. I talked to Karen Webber: there was misinformation in the article; she had talked to Deb Laplaca over the weekend. She indicated she had changed the article on line and that there would be a retraction in tomorrow's paper. I also told her I was concerned about where there is mention that ExxonMobil has been ordered by DEP...I told her that I don't recall DEP giving ExxonMobil any orders to put infrastructure in, only one for 6W; nothing about infrastructure. Brian Lee needs to correct it. Further on in the article it says that the loop that was going to go around Bay Path—that again, ExxonMobil was ordered to put that in. That was not the case. There was no order for Exxon to do that. The other point was there was language: ...Ms. Craver wants to relocate the Mass Ave pump station from Southbridge to Charlton on the grounds that it would better serve Charlton customers. Mr. Haebler: That was Dewberry's suggestion. Mr. Lemansky to Karen Webber: I forwarded the Dewberry reports to Debbie Laplaca. In that report, it was

Southbridge's engineer who stated in his report that the system would work much better; also they would be able to deliver more water if they reduced the pressures. These are two examples of Brian Lee not doing his homework and Chris Clark not reading his reports; and it is another false statement that needs to be corrected. The other thing was: Ms. Craver suggesting that a \$275,000 connection fee paid by Juniper Hill belongs to Charlton. Over the last 30 months, the financial gain to Southbridge has been over \$600,000; and I don't know why that wasn't mentioned in either article. Mr. Lemansky to Karen Webber: the Water and Sewer Commission/ Board of Selectmen--Town of Charlton--we are partners with Southbridge to deliver water to Charlton customers. Southbridge collects all the money. As far as our department – we partnered with Southbridge; they supply the water; we supply the lines. People are thinking that Southbridge is doing us a favor. Karen Webber will make certain there is a retraction and direct that Brian Lee goes back over material and correct his material. Mr. Haebler: Mr. Clark wants to bring Southbridge water to Charlton. Mr. Clark wants to relocate the Mass Ave pump station. Brian Lee created animosity with his article. Mr. Haebler: There should be negotiating teams on both sides; maybe Town Counsel should be included.

7:38 p.m. Mr. Haebler: I make a motion that we go into Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, Exception #3 and #6; and to exit Executive Session for the purpose of adjourning; seconded by Mr. Lemansky. Roll call vote: Mr. Haebler: I; Mr. Spiewak: I; Mr. Elliott: I; Mr. Lemansky: I; and Mr. Gagner: I.

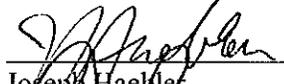
8:39 p.m. Mr. Haebler: I make a motion that we exit Executive Session for the purpose of adjournment; seconded by Mr. Elliott. Discussion. We will put some thoughts down and get them to Steve. Roll call vote: Mr. Haebler: I; Mr. Spiewak: I; Mr. Elliott: I; Mr. Gagner: I; Mr. Lemansky: I.

Mr. Haebler: I make a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Spiewak. Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

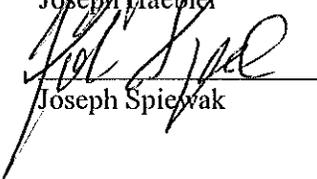
John Elliott, Sr.

Date



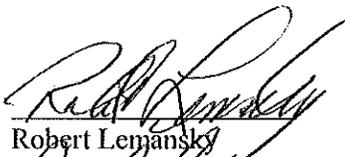
Joseph Haebler

Date



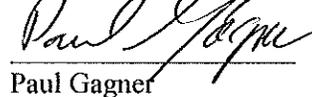
Joseph Spiewak

Date



Robert Lemansky

Date



Paul Gagner

Date

5/13/13

5/13/13

COMMITMENT & INTEGRITY
DRIVE RESULTS

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Charlton Water & Sewer Commission
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April 8, 2013

RE: March Operating Report

Commissioners,

The treatment plant is continuing its trend of compliance this month as all of our normal NPDES parameters are within range. We unfortunately have to report that our latest round of Toxicity sampling resulted in a less than passing grade. Our original Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Test was never completed in its designated cycle due to the snowstorm that visited Charlton at the beginning of the month (the 8th & 9th). This test consists of three days of sampling with lab pickups. The test days are generally the first full week of the month based on a quarterly cycle. We sample Sundays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays with pickups on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays. The last pick up (on Friday the 9th) was never performed by the lab due to inclement weather so this nullifies the whole test resulting in having to begin the test over, the next week. We once again sampled and they were picked up only to receive the report notifying us that we had failed to meet the permit criteria for reproduction. Survival was reported as 100% but reproduction was only at 50% (perhaps the mood wasn't right). I am now looking into the possibility that the weather issues impacted the test. What I mean is that perhaps the large amount of salt deployed onto the roads during the storm event somehow impacted the receiving water (Cady Brook) which is a key player in the dilution mixture with our effluent. All effluent data was examined and no anomalies were discovered thus leading me to believe that perhaps the dilution (brook) was to blame but this is not proven. We will continue to peruse the data in the hopes of finding an answer.

Treatment Plant:

A new sludge mixer has been ordered to replace the one that had failed as reported last month. We are now asking the Commission to consider repairing the old mixer to be put away as a spare as all 4 sludge mixers are the same. There is no critical decision necessary as these mixers operate on a monthly basis to mix the sludge once it is deemed necessary to remove and is dependent on which



particular sludge tank we are operating. Spare parts are always welcome at a wastewater treatment plant and reduce down time considerably.

Calibrations were performed on laboratory equipment & Pump Station flow meters this month.

Collection System & MTA Pump Stations:

The manhole located directly in front of the Masonic Home driveway (hereafter referred to as the Masonic Manhole) was once again very close to clogging with debris that came down the pipe from the home. We cleaned it out again and have been monitoring it on a weekly basis. This occurrence happened on March 12th and the manhole has been “clean” since that time. The director supposedly had meetings with the personnel instructing them to dispose of all “rags” in the trash as opposed to discarding them into the toilet. We will see if this practice continues which seems to remedy the situation of clogging at the discharge into the manhole.

One of the pumps at the 6W pump station was discovered to be very noisy. We removed the pump and found that a large pair of underwear had to be removed from the impeller. The pump was reinstalled and seems to be operating fine.

Miscellaneous:

There were eight residential grinder pump alarm calls this month three of which resulted in clogged pumps.

Conclusion:

This concludes the monthly operating report for March 2013. I would be happy to answer any questions the commission may have regarding this report or any other concerns.

Sincerely,
Woodard & Curran
Jody St. George

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