

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the
Charlton Water and Sewer Commission
Date: July 18, 2013**

Location: Sewer treatment plant office, 8A Worcester Road

Attendees:

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>
Joseph Haebler	Y	Robert Lemansky	Y
Joseph Spiewak	Y	Paul Gagner	Y
Alex J. MacKenzie	Y		

Mr. Haebler: I'll call the special meeting of the Charlton Water & Sewer Commission together. It is 6:04 p.m. on July 18th. We have one commitment warrant for MTA surcharges. **Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion that we approve the following commitment warrant for MTA surcharges for MTA service area 5E for the period 4/1/ - 6/30 for \$63,961.91; and for MTA service area 6W for the same period for \$10,251.76 for a total of \$74,213.67; seconded by Mr. Lemansky.** Discussion: Mr. Lemansky: I know that east is busier than west. We are talking 5-1 here. Steve: They are consistent. Mr. Lemansky: It's in the formula as to what they are discharging. Steve: Yes. **Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Haebler: I communicated with the office of Chris Clark yesterday. I checked with Joe before I called. Mr. Spiewak: I had communication but haven't received an answer. Mr. Haebler: I told Chris Clark that I hoped that I could call him next week and get some information from him. He has my email address and Joe's email. If we do it by email, fine. I asked he get back to me so we can discuss his ideas on it. Mr. Lemansky: What's pressing here is betterments. Steve: There's a letter in your packet which I plan to send to the DOR. The drop dead date is August 1st per Deborah Ceccarini. Mr. Haebler: This will be on the agenda for Monday night's meeting. To Steve: What were you told if we don't get betterments done? Steve: It was said that 6 – 12 people would have to be let go. Mr. Lemansky: We have the GIS now and we have McClure together with Kleinfelder, so the process should go faster. Chris McClure: We can just highlight as we go up through – I have the addresses; will need to determine the frontage in order to get the betterment information together. Mr. Haebler to Steve: You want authorization to send this letter out? Steve: Yes. I estimated the ExxonMobil to be \$10M, \$5M of which we have spent. I'm trying to say to DOR that based on the Special Legislation which we have, we needed a commitment and estimate as to what the dollars were; we have spent \$5M. Can we go forward with the people we know and better them immediately at the 50% rate? About \$4,000 per person – Deborah could go forward. As the other five lines became active, those properties could be bettered at that time. Chris McClure: I thought it was higher than \$5M. Steve: The number we are dealing with is \$4.9M. Mr. Lemansky: It was \$5M for the first project 10 years ago. Then we spent a couple of million dollars between Charlton Center once; Charlton Center twice; Charlton City; \$600,000 worth of repairs. I respectfully disagree with \$4.9M. Steve: I'm looking for the DOR to sign off on this. Mr. Lemansky to Chris: Remember we met at the town hall in the senior center. At that time, Heather was there. Heather put the first phase group together - 184 people to be bettered during the first phase. Then they decided not to throw the whole \$ amount on that; they were saving \$s for the next phase (held back around \$2M). Our first project was with Smith (\$1.7 or \$1.8); the next project was \$600,000 - \$700,000. It cost at least \$5M to put the water line in down Route 20 from Oxford to here. The total project is well over \$7M. Chris: There were 235 – that was every property that abutted the water line. Then we took the town properties and ExxonMobil out of there to get 184. We counted all of Charlton City. We also included Brookfield Road and other areas. Mr. Spiewak: The intention of the letter is if you take out the numbers, I think we are asking: if we have 1/3 of the project done, can we better just that number? Mr. Lemansky: Why don't we use Abraham? He crafted the Special Legislation for us. He knows what formula he was trying to achieve. Mr. Haebler to Steve: Can you call him? Steve: Yes, he completed the town. Chris: I think he needs to know that the 6 mile extension hasn't occurred yet, but the town needs to go forward with bettering people. Mr. Spiewak: Regardless of what Mr. Abraham says, we are looking to move forward to start the betterments – can we do it for the 200 or so we have already done. Mr. Lemansky: I'm hoping we can start it for everybody. We want

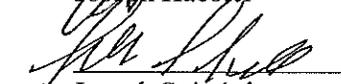
to make sure that because of the Special Legislation, the window is open. When you do a betterment, you take the total cost divided by the users, and you're done. Mr. Abraham needs to come in and tell us how we blend this so that when the 6 miles comes in and Route 20, we can take the many more hands and make the load lighter. Mr. Haebler to Steve: Email Mr. Abraham the letter. Mr. Lemansky to Mr. Haebler: Mr. Chair, you are in agreement that we have Steve look up his hourly costs; i.e., \$135.00; that's what we'll live by? Mr. Haebler: Yes. Mr. Spiewak: If we went forward with just the 200, it won't cover next year's payment. Steve: It helps. Mr. MacKenzie: How much of a shortfall? Steve: They are paying out \$278K a year. Mr. Lemansky: The town hasn't made their payment in earnest as they had during the first 5-6 years. The Konoco money has been filling in for that. People are saying it is our bill; but it is the town of Charlton's bill. Mr. Haebler: It was all done by town meeting vote. Mr. Lemansky: We want to have the same rights of recovery as the town has gotten through the Special Legislation to go back multiple years to recover all of these expenses from the people who have been paying the betterments.

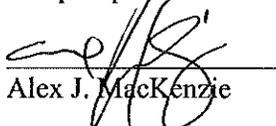
Mr. Haebler: We'll bring this up again on Monday night. Chris, how's it going in Charlton City? (Chris had a map) Prowler went out and did leak detection on the 900' of line from Brookfield Road on Route 20 down to Stafford Street. Whitewater put 7 correlators in; 129 p.s.i.; no noise along Stafford Street up to Carpenter Hill Road; noise in and around Gillespie Road. There was work done recently in that area. We don't have a handle on everything at this time. The recommendation now is through Prowler and his discussions with us and the folks in the Southbridge Water Department – we could pressurize the line with water to over 200 p.s.i. and do the correlation again. He proposes we use gas in that line again; pressurize the gas to 240 p.s.i. – the gas makes a different noise and is usually more distinguishable by his correlators. Whitewater had a similar problem two years ago. Al came with the gas; pressurized a line in Charlton City; when he was done, he couldn't find any leak in Charlton City. The line passed at that time. He has had a similar situation when he was working for The Overlook; he searched for the leak with gas, could not find it; and the leak disappeared. Mr. Lemansky: Is the plan to do the gas at midnight or during the day? Chris: He would like to connect the gas on a Friday evening, log and correlate overnight on several valves and contact points; then be at the site on Saturday morning; reinstall another tank if necessary, research results; be out there Sunday morning at 3 a.m. to sniff. The tank would be removed on Monday. He sees no reason for a detail. Mr. Lemansky: With Prowler, one of the options was to add water and pressurize it with water. He thinks the optimum is with gas. Chris: He doesn't want to do the water. He wants us to hire Prescott to pressure it; and he would monitor the sounds again. This is just Prowler. If we use the water, the pressure could be brought up as high as 250 p.s.i. Mr. Lemansky: We could have Prowler and Prescott come, add the water, add the listening; and put a value on that. Chris: He's saying the gas. Mr. MacKenzie: The other concern Al had was undetermined material. The correlators won't be able to pick up anything on a plastic service. You won't get the sound out of plastic with the correlator and the water. It will have a higher pitch. Mr. Lemansky: What's it going to cost us for Prowler to come out with the gas? Steve: \$600.00. Mr. Haebler to Chris: We budgeted a certain \$ amount per hour. We need to know the amount. Chris: His original leak detection was going to cost \$1,800.00. Mr. MacKenzie: EJP is \$970 a day. Chris: Around \$900 a day. Prescott won't come out on a Friday. Mr. Haebler: How soon can they come out? Chris: Maybe this weekend. **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion that we go with Prowler asap and go with the combination of the listening devices and the detection gas; seconded by Mr. Gagner. Vote: Unanimous.** Mr. MacKenzie: How long has it been since this process started—Charlton City coming up on line? We'll have to go back and do flushing again? Chris: We flush all of Charlton City. I won't worry about services until people start connecting. Mr. MacKenzie--the ability to flush without too much issue. Chris to Tom in Southbridge: If we have a leak, we fix it. Mr. Lemansky: We will flush the lines automatically. We'll have to make certain all the valves are working. Chris: We can get the flushing all done in a day. Mr. Lemansky: The best we can do is August 15th; get the letter approved. Mr. Spiewak: The concern is if we have to dig up Route 20, you need to get permission from the Mass DOT, etc. Mr. Lemansky: If we have to dig up Route 20, let's go with Chris' original proposal: turn on 90% of the system and isolate the section on Route 20. We need to get the letter for the S. Sturbridge Road project back from Southbridge; once we spend the \$s, they will allow the connection. Chris: Southbridge has a blanket permit with Mass DOT to do any repairs to the water system. Mr. MacKenzie: Looping is such an issue with Southbridge. I'm assuming that our extreme dead ends and branches, you would be looking at 3-4 day old water. Chris to Alex: What's considered a dead end? Mr. MacKenzie: Do you know what dead ends we have? We are talking relatively knew ductile iron pipe. You shouldn't have any issues. I am assuming at our

extreme dead ends and branches, you are looking at 3 or 4 day old water. Chris: Miles of deadends. Mr. MacKenzie: At what point is looking at an easement more cost effective in the long run? Chris: One of the curb stops at Ted's (there are 2 that service the property—one for Ted's and one for Francesco's) is full of debris (dirt). Can I make arrangements to have that cleaned out? Mr. Haebler: Is that active? Chris: It's a service line with a curb stop that would potentially be active. We have been able to work every valve, but not all of the curb stops. We don't know where they are all located. Every other service stop – there haven't been issues. Mr. MacKenzie: This curb box, if you listen on that; and you know that it is open or closed, you can determine where the leak is. If it's open and you hear something leaking, you know it's leaking on the service. You close the curb stop. Then you know it's leaking between the curb and the corporation. Chris: One of the boxes is new. Mr. Lemansky: Should we get permission to turn a portion of that water on in Charlton City while we still are doing leak detection? Chris: No. Mr. MacKenzie: The main is not an accepted main.

7:00 p.m. Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Spiewak. Vote: Unanimous.

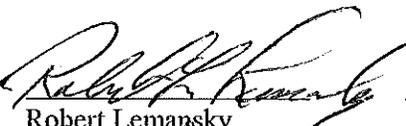


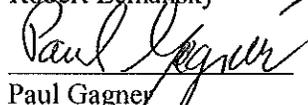
Joseph Haebler


Joseph Spiewak


Alex J. MacKenzie

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Robert Lemansky
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Paul Gagney
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