

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlton Water and Sewer Commission**  
**Date: February 10, 2014**

Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

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'd like to call the meeting to order. It is 6:08 p.m.; it is February 10. **Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the following warrants: Ricoh USA, Inc.: \$149.38; AT&T: \$45.69; Osterman Propane LLC: \$2,246.09; National Grid: \$542.54; Carol A. Goodspeed: mileage reimbursement: \$36.16; total: \$3,019.86; Town of Charlton: services of Town Planner regarding FAR build-out calculations for the water betterment project area: \$84.10; Woodard & Curran: contract operations for February; \$40,151.75; Repair & Maintenance: \$2,500.00; total: \$42,651.75; Woodard & Curran: services for the period ending 12/17/13: repair and maintenance overage: \$1,795.71; Elderly abatement warrants: Title V: \$168.00; Meter: \$208.87; seconded by Mr. Gagner.** Mr. Haebler: All in favor? **Vote: Mr. Spiewak: I; Mr. Haebler: I; Mr. Gagner: I; Mr. Lemansky: I; Mr. MacKenzie: I.**

Steve's report: 3A S. Sturbridge Road. We have contracted with the contractor for the install. Next was the change order to put the lateral in at this address. The construction season opens in April. McClure provided this Friday afternoon so I could provide copies to you. You may vote to have the chairman sign this. **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion to have the chairman sign the change order; seconded by Mr. Gagner.** Mr. Gagner: Are we bound by this company to do that? Steve: It is part of the change order that the commission had voted on to do. **Vote: Unanimous.** Steve: We continue to have calls on betterments but they have diminished in the last couple of weeks. The manhole cover incident on Route 20. I spent some time providing the insurance company information they requested. We received a bill from Preferred Mutual in the amount of \$5,650.25; they have totaled the car. I spoke with our insurance company and sent the 35 page document to them. I also spoke with the officer. The claim came through the town hall. I talked to the town hall and they put me in touch with the town's insurance carrier. My opinion is that we are not at fault. A truck hit the manhole cover. Steve contacted the town administrator's office when the incident occurred. Steve: I have kept copies of all documentation. We are trying to come up with a mutually agreeable time for the copier to be delivered. It should happen prior to our next meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The office computers are on order. When available, a time will be set up for the installation. 5 Main Street: A request has been received with respect to forgiveness of the balance of their sewer betterment. Mr. Haebler: I did some research on this. I found a DOR opinion dated February 25, 2005 about a lot that was charged a betterment fee. It wasn't built upon but was a desirable lot to build on. The property wasn't built on. They wanted to change the use a few years ago to open space. DOR said you can't change the betterment. What I gathered from this is that once the betterment is done, you can't change them. That has been the only thing I have been able to find on the DOR website called "in our opinion"; and it cites General Law Chapter 80, Section 5. We have talked about the change of use, but I don't think we have the right to change the betterment. They go to the Department of Revenue. If this were a privilege fee, then we could do something about it. Steve: 5 Main Street: I believe they are on the schedule for this evening. Mr. Lemansky: With this new copier, do we have any limitations on the amount of copies? Steve: We are charged \$.005 per copy. Mr. Lemansky: Please find out how many copies the new machine is capable of. Steve: I have asked for an answer but have not received one. Mr. Lemansky: Do we put the

computers out to bid? Steve: The IT man is going to take them. If you want to do something else, let me know. Mr. Lemansky: They may be of use to someone. Mr. Haebler: Check with the procurement officer. Maybe we could get rid of other computers we have. **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion that we inventory the equipment we have as far as computers and monitors, and put them out through the normal bid process; seconded by Mr. Gagner.** Discussion: Mr. Spiewak: Do we have any opportunity to donate those? Perhaps another town entity? Mr. Haebler: It would have to be through another town board. Mr. Spiewak: My concern would be if the residual value is not worth it, then we reserve the right to say no. **Mr. Lemansky: I will accept a modification to my motion to allow for first to see if there are any other boards or organizations that have use for these two computers...;** but we would have to wipe out documents and billing software. Steve: The hard drive should be wiped. There is information stored on there. **Mr. Lemansky: I'll amend the motion to add: to search out any organizations who could use the computers. Mr. Haebler to Mr. Gagner: Do you accept the amendment? Mr. Gagner: Yes.** Mr. Haebler: We will plan to put them out to bid. **Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Lemansky: Steve had mentioned to me that at one of your meetings you had voted on privilege fees. Mr. Haebler: We voted that we would have them, but haven't done it. Mr. Lemansky: I believe that if there was a vote taken regarding privilege fees, Mr. Gagner and I should have been included at those meetings. Mr. Haebler: I have asked that Steve inquire of Jeanne McKnight her opinion regarding this. Mr. Haebler: As soon as we can get a definitive answer from Jeanne McKnight, we should have a workshop. Then we could take a vote at a meeting. Steve: New business: There is a roundtable discussion posted for tomorrow night. It is a posted meeting for us. It will take place in the senior center downstairs. Mr. Gagner: There have been a lot of people complaining about the difficulty of dealing with the people in Charlton. The idea of a roundtable is to get the departments together and ask "...what can we do to improve the situation?" No one is obligated to attend. Mr. Gagner: I think this department has made permitting much easier for people. Mr. Lemansky to Steve: Do you know if they are going to have experienced people there? Steve: I believe they have asked Ted to be there to share positives and negatives about his building project. Mr. Spiewak: I plan on attending. Mr. Lemansky to Mr. Haebler: Is there anything that should be coming from this board, or should we just go? Mr. Haebler: Cutting down the steps. We will continue with new business. Spreadsheets were provided to the commission regarding indirect costs. Property insurance: the total value of the buildings in town is \$26,444,371. Our property consists of 11 pump stations plus the water tank estimated at a value of \$8,298,272. Mr. Spiewak: Last year's budget was \$4,400 and now this year they are saying it is \$9,700. Either last year's calculation was wrong, or the insurance cost has doubled. Mr. Lemansky: We have a potential value of \$2,000,000 for the pump stations. Mr. Haebler: Are they putting all town properties together? Steve: Yes, the \$26,444,371 includes all of the town properties. Our properties are 31.38% of all of the town properties. Mr. Lemansky: Lines 23-36: they add on the related benefits for the town hall employees in the amount of \$66,000 (\$49,662 plus the \$16,000 for related benefits for staff). Mr. Spiewak: Because of our water betterment activity, we may see an increase. Mr. Lemansky: I think we will be back in front of the Selectmen Mr. Spiewak. Mr. Haebler: I would like to see what we had for the budget in FY 2014; and then the figure for FY 2015. Mr. Spiewak: The property insurance jumps out as a big increase. Steve: I am working with Jody on the capital budget for the plant. Mr. Haebler: This will be on the agenda for the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Could you send that out to us the Thursday before? Steve: Yes. Mr. Spiewak: Can you put it on a spreadsheet and send it to us as a PDF? Steve: Yes. Steve will send it out to the commissioners.

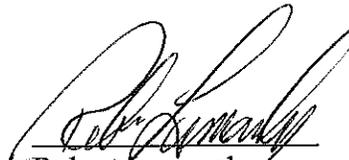
Mr. Haebler: Do we want to go into Executive Session? Mr. Lemansky: If we are just going to discuss the fact that we all received a map... My suggestion was to not accept that. Steve: This was just a proposal. It originated with Mark Baldi who shared it with Marielle Stone. Mr. Lemansky: You really need to see it in color. Mr. Spiewak: We received two pieces of information today. I don't think we need to be in executive session with respect to information from Peter Calderazzo. Plan A works and Plan B doesn't work. Mr. Lemansky: We just follow the original loop. Mr. Spiewak: Mr. Chair: My concern is that this potential exercise we saw coming from ExxonMobil – I think at some point we need to move forward collectively as two towns, or sit down at the bargaining table. It's time we approach the Town Council in Southbridge. We have run out of time for Bay Path. Mr. Haebler: We need to hear from the town administrator as to the IMA negotiations. I'll try to call her tomorrow. Mr. Lemansky: To be fair to the director in Southbridge—we are struggling with the quality of the water. We would be responsible for blowoffs if needed. The good news is that the expert has stated that the original proposal was the one to go with. Mr. Spiewak: I'm very uncomfortable that we haven't had dates. As a board I believe we need to take the leadership and move forward. **Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion that we request to get on the next Town Council meeting in Southbridge whenever it is, and if that is not accepted that we attend their next open session; and that we need to move this negotiation forward; seconded by Mr. Gagner.** Mr. Gagner: I would think that if we agree to pay for the blowoff, that should relieve some of the concerns that Southbridge has about the water quality. **Vote: Unanimous.** Mr. Gagner: Will that be for the whole board or just a representative of us? Mr. Spiewak: I think whatever they accept. Mr. Haebler: I think Steve can handle this. Mr. Lemansky: We should have two people come up with a plan prior to the meeting; have Mr. Lemansky and Mr. Spiewak work on that and then present it to the commission. Steve: I would suggest rethinking the process of having Robin put this thing together. Protocol. Mr. Haebler: We should talk to Robin and let her know what we want to do. She may be able to smooth the way to get us on the agenda. Mr. Haebler: We should have two of our board members and a member of the Board of Selectmen together. Mr. Spiewak: Let's move this forward.

**Mr. Gagner: I would like to make a motion to adjourn with the next meeting being February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the treatment plant; seconded by Mr. Spiewak.** Mr. Spiewak: Just one clarification. Officially our next meeting is tomorrow night and it is posted. **Mr. Haebler: All in favor? Vote: Unanimous.**

Meeting ended at 6:59 p.m.

  
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Joseph Haebler

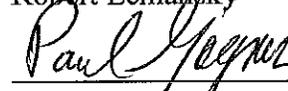
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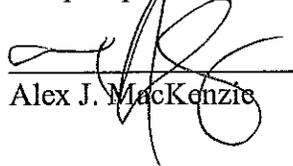
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