

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Charlton Water and Sewer Commission**  
**Date: March 24, 2014**

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

Attendees:

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

Mr. Haebler: I'd like to call the meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission together. It is March 24, 2014 at 6:32 p.m.; and we are at the sewer plant. Mr. Lemansky, Mr. Spiewak and Mr. Haebler are here. Mr. Gagner and Mr. MacKenzie are not able to make it tonight. **Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the following warrants: Verizon: \$452.75; Woodard & Curran: \$253.00; Fire Detection Systems: \$428.87; Poland Spring Direct: \$9.75; Osterman Propane LLC: \$2,179.50; Town of Charlton: \$22.68 for copy paper; Town of Charlton: postage for quarterly invoices mailing: \$166.34; Zee Medical, Inc.; medical supplies: \$118.00; total: \$3,178.34; Jeff D. Helgerson Excavating, Inc.: frozen pipe at 6 Vine Street; \$675.00; LeBlanc Septic Inspections: camera service to locate pressure line at 6 Vine Street: \$150.00; Northeast Battery: \$78.04; Lefort Electric Inc.: grinder pump installation at 171 Sunset Drive: \$560.00; Worcester District Registry of Deeds: transfer of ownership – pipeline – Northside Road; filing fee for documentation: \$75.00; Town of Southbridge: water used for blowoff – South Sturbridge Road connection: \$5,707.60; Steven Wandland: mileage reimbursement regarding tracer study (3/3/14 – 3/9/14): \$235.20; Steven Wandland: mileage reimbursement regarding tracer study (3/10/14 – 3/21/14): \$226.24; Abatement warrant: 142 Worcester Road; \$981.96 per explanation prepared by Steve; Mroczkowski Realty Trust: 1 Maple Street; \$210.00; 3 Maple Street; \$210.00 (additional credits to be applied to accounts); Paul and Patricia Lamoureux, 23 Carpenter Hill Road; transfer from Title V to metered billing: \$420.00; Richard and Sandra Desautels, 40 Osgood Road; charged for three bedroom; changed per assessors' office after inspection to a one bedroom home: \$140.00; Virginia Brunell, 11 Power Station Road; transferred from Title V to metered billing: \$280.00; Elderly abatement warrant: Title V: \$147.00; seconded by Mr. Lemansky.** Carol explained that some properties were visited by someone contracted through the Board of Assessors; and that is how properties can be changed with respect to bedroom counts. Mr. Haebler: Sometimes they do that. Mr. Lemansky indicated that new houses have to contain three bedrooms unless you get a variance from the board. The commission signed all of the warrants presented. **Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Lemansky: This is one of the things that I want to stress to the Board of Health Joe. This is Title V which says that if you either have a vacant lot or you have a failed septic system and sewer is available, that you must connect to sewer. You can't repair your system and you can't rebuild a new one. Our goal here tonight is to convince the Board of Health that if there is a vacant lot and public water is available, they need to tell people that they cannot drill a well and that they need to connect to town water. It costs \$6,000 to drill a well and another \$2,000 to mitigate it. Mr. Haebler continued: We have the Board of Health coming in at 7 p.m. There is a DEP meeting on Thursday at 1 p.m. Mr. Lemansky plans to attend. Mr. Spiewak: Can you make it? Mr. Spiewak will check to see if he is available. Mr. Haebler: I want two members to go. We have a Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday to discuss indirect costs. Mr. Lemansky: Are we going to vote on our budget tonight? Mr. Haebler: We could. It is on our agenda. **Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the minutes dated February 24, 2014; seconded by Mr. Lemansky. Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Haebler: I do have Steve's office report: The water bill for the hydrant blowoff for S. Sturbridge Road was received and sent to Honey Farms. The tracer study started on March 3 to run for 14 days; last meeting we voted to extend it for another 7 days; that is done now. I'm not sure whether the final results have come in yet. ExxonMobil is still evaluating funding of the tracer study. Steve plans to go to the Worcester Registry to file the Northside Road paperwork. There have been phone calls and e-mails relative to betterment questions to legal counsel; manhole cover Rt. 20 incident: finally an accident report has been filed with the Charlton Police Department. There have been calls with the copier provider; new copier has been scheduled for delivery and also the removal of the old copier; calls with the town's IT group to replace the office computers; sewer plant: working on the issue for additional lighting in the parking area. There are three manholes and drains that need to be fixed by early spring (one outside the door here). Grinder pump change outs are being booked. There is an all boards meeting on April 8, 2014 in the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m. We are posted for that meeting; and there is a meeting at the DEP at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2014. At the last meeting we discussed paying Steve for the extra time he put in for the tracer study. We have one member of the Board of Health here. Mr. Haebler: Steve put in extra time above and beyond what we ask that he normally do. Steve came up with a total \$2,038.71. At our last meeting we did not vote on this, but said we would consider this; or do we want to wait until the full board is here. Mr. Lemansky: He needs to be compensated. I don't have a problem with compensating Steve. **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion to compensate Steve for the additional time that Steve put in to open and close the town hall for the tracer study totaling \$2,038.71 as stated; seconded by Mr. Spiewak. Vote: Unanimous.** Mr. Lemansky inquired of Mr. Haebler how the meeting went with Frank Cavaleri of Woodard & Curran and Jody St. George. Mr. Haebler: It went very well. Jody did the talking—explained things—it went smoothly. They discussed everything. Mr. Lemansky: Joe, you had the experience of negotiating the three-year contract. Are there things now that we are experiencing that looking back when we negotiated this out that we should have gone a different way? Mr. Haebler: I think some things could be tweaked. You will need to look at the contract. I think the three years are up on January 1; and there is a six-month extension.

7:00 p.m. Mr. Haebler: We have the Board of Health here. For the record, please introduce yourselves. Jim Malley, engineer for the Board of Health, not a voting member; Nelson Burlingame, Board of Health and a voting member; Matt Gagner, Chairman of the Board of Health. Mr. Haebler: We wanted to meet with you to discuss the water situation. We want you to know what's going on. We are working hard to get water into the town, and it has been a struggle. One of the problems is water quality and getting more users. The more users we have, the better turnover of water we will have. Matt Gagner: I have been on the Board of Health for four years. I went to one of the roundtable meetings. They talked about infrastructure. There's a big problem with Charlton needing water. I don't have the education as to why we need water. I think the roundtable meeting helped me to see outside the box. There were comments saying maybe the Board of Health can help with this. We could be another driving force in that direction. Maybe there is something that the Board of Health can do to help you. Mr. Lemansky: Charlton does have water. We do have fire protection. CVS and Ted's have fire protection. Mr. Nichols is applying for fire protection at his building on Route 20. We do have water lines that have been activated in town. The latest is Charlton City; the extension of about 150' on S. Sturbridge Road. By doing that connection, we have redirected the water; so that the largest user in Charlton no longer directly has water come up Route 169 and go west. Now we take that water, come up Route 169, force it up through the system and down through Charlton City; and then west on Route 20. The challenge we have right now is making sure that the water coming from Southbridge maintains a good residual to where the operator feels comfortable. He's responsible for retaining good quality. What we have here is a suggestion by ExxonMobil. Our plan for doing the school loop is to go

down Old Worcester Road, Morton Station Road to the end of that road, go over to the two schools; then back up the hill to Bay Path and come out to Main Street in the center; and then we have looped the water. That loop contains 28,000 gallons of water with an 8" pipe; approximately 33,000'. Southbridge is saying this loop will service Bay Path. We want to service our two schools, not Heritage, but the new intermediate school. It has had MTBE's; Bay Path has had a small amount, 2 or 3, which are consistent. On the map, Old Worcester Road, where you see it in red, the MTBE's are over 75. That reading has to be reported to the DEP within three hours. Also, there is red at the Highway Department and at the lamp shop. We had this discussion with ExxonMobil a month ago. The contamination is no longer in the surface water or the ground water. It is in the bedrock. We have someone who wants to supply us with water. They do have the quantity. The problem now is the quality. One of the things that the interim town manager is saying is that we will supply water; but you need to give us an operating plan with assurances that the water is going to be good. ExxonMobil is getting a Consent Order. The DEP will work with us. They will go out 24 months. The general rule of thumb has been that anyone who has any reading, even as low as 1 MTBE – connections are paid for and done. Mark Baldi succeeded to get more people to connect on Northside Road. If public sewer is in the street and you are going to build a new house, you will connect. A regular single family house uses 200 g.p.d.

Matt Gagner: Most of Northside Road has contamination in it. There was 1 property that had a non-detect. Gary Pontbriand and Mrs. Oliver – she was on the IMA. They never got a hit; everyone else around them had hits in their wells. Most of Northside Road is contaminated. Mr. Lemansky: A lot of those homes have MTBE's. Mr. Malley: We thought that at some point this gentleman's well would get contaminated. Why did we think we were going to be short with that 100,000 gallons. Now we are only using 20%. If we were to tie in everyone who wanted to, would 100,000 gallons be enough? Mr. Lemansky: A study was done by Weston & Sampson. The demand that they figured for the service area during peak times was 287,000 gallons. It was on that information that the Water & Sewer Commission decided to go for special legislation. It was in April of 2011 when Chris Clark wrote saying that anyone who abutted the water line could connect. Matt Gagner: Rockin M Ranch – the volume they put aside was massive. Nelson Burlingame: What's our goal? Mr. Lemansky: The plan is that we negotiate for a permanent agreement which will include up to 500,000 gallons. A new pump station would have to be built somewhere around the Stearns Meats location; and a new larger line would have to be put into that pump station and into Southbridge. Matt Gagner: I have always been for choice, not for mandatory. Mr. Lemansky: We are not making it mandatory. Mr. Haebler: We would like to encourage people to connect. Mr. Malley: Would ExxonMobil foot the bill if people did not have money to put a well in? Mr. Lemansky: If there was a policy in place that if water was available that you had to connect to it, whether there was contamination or not, you would have to connect to it. I think most developers would prefer public water than dealing with private wells. The expense of fire suppression was discussed. Matt Gagner: It's a no brainer -- mandatory -- they would welcome it. Mr. Spiewak: What are we considering? I'm thinking of developments where they are cutting in roads. You would have to tell people they have to get approval from Southbridge.

Ron Wilmont: We have a grant coming in. We are doing Route 31 over from Spencer – if it were possible to bring water down there to Genzyme Corporation, would the state partially fund it? The Housing Authority this fall may be putting in additional units. Mr. Haebler: They will have to come out on Masonic Home Road because they have to do a full loop. Mr. Lemansky: The language would be that any buildable property that fronts a water line should connect to water. Mr. Malley: Use Title V language – Board of Health Regulations. Matt Gagner: What do you do about a new development going up: Boucher Road – 67 houses? The water is so close. What do you do to connect up to that

link? Mr. Lemansky: It was first thought that we would go down Route 20; take a right hand turn on Old Worcester Road; and come right up by the corner of Boucher Road. There are 38,000 gallons of water in that 12" pipe, a whole day usage. We are encouraging ExxonMobil to do a continuous loop where there is enough volume usage and the quality of water is good. Mr. Haebler: We don't want a cross country. Just put in the lines; go down the end of Old Worcester Road to Route 20; and when we get usage, the lines are there. Ron Wilmont – Freeman Road –housing for the elderly? Mr. Lemansky: That development has already been approved. We will try to encourage people with vacant land to connect to public water. Mr. Wilmont: The arsenic issue should be brought forth more often than it has been. It would be a good convincing point. Matt Gagner: Arsenic is a safety issue. Mr. Spiewak: When we were going through the betterment meetings, there was a woman who came forth. She had just purchased a house in Charlton City and had a contaminated well. They got a free connection. Mr. Lemansky: There comes a time when because of all of the infiltration in those areas, this is what's best for property owners—to tie into water. Aquifers can change.

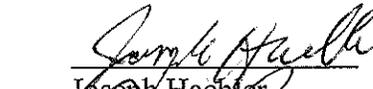
Mr. Malley: Is there a potential to have parcels within the contaminated area that don't have town water available? We should probably be issuing them a well permit. Mr. Lemansky: If the property has been identified either by the town of Charlton from the Highway Department issue or by ExxonMobil, they have either a POET system in their house or are receiving bottled water. Almost all of these people on Old Worcester Road have a POET system or are receiving bottled water. Mr. Lemansky to the Board of Health: Keep an eye on the well reports north and northwest of 6W. One of the points Mark Baldi had made was that there has to be a supply of water in reserve so that if a problem extends to a different area or pops up in another area, we need to know that there is an area to which we can extend the line. The IMA has always talked about a final contract that included 500,000 gallons. The DEP knows this is in play; Southbridge has agreed. The next question is how do we get the infrastructure in play to get it to Charlton? Matt Gagner: How does your water tower come into play in all of that? Mr. Lemansky: It will come into play once our volume increases. During peak summer weekends, Southbridge has a problem maintaining a desired water pressure especially at 6W on the turnpike. The tank operates on a 6 foot variation of water. Once it gets below 6 feet, the pressure starts dropping at 6W. That tank is 200,000 gallons. Our tank is 785,000 gallons. If we fill that tank up now, our water will go stale. Mr. Malley: Board of Health regulations: With respect to subdivisions and new construction: say we put in a regulation that says new construction must tie into water if water is available. The engineering firm approves it. Their next step would be to come to your commission to make sure water and sewer are available. Mr. Lemansky: Yes; and then they would immediately present the engineering plan to Southbridge. Through Southbridge, there is a \$2,000 connection fee charged for water and you must use copper. Matt Gagner: I'm glad we had that meeting – the round table. As Joe said, wording is important. Mr. Spiewak: There is legislation going through right now. There has been an earmark put in of \$6,000,000 for Charlton should we need it to develop our own water source. Mr. Haebler: Southbridge would not be able to do any lines on Route 20 past the Quarter Keg Pub. It's too long. Mr. Lemansky: We are waiting for the Court answer in Oxford. We are hoping that \$6,000,000 will be a grant. We're not looking at a low or no interest loan. We talked about it the other night at the meeting with the Finance Committee. Matt Gagner: Would that grant money have to be used for new water, or could we use it in the best way for the town? Mr. Haebler: If we were to develop our own system, \$6,000,000 would not cover it. Mr. Lemansky: Buffumville is 12 million gallons of water a day; you take the water off that surface and run it through a plant. The commission had Tighe & Bond take a look at that 7 or 8 years ago. Usually a gravel pack well is the most successful. Matt Gagner: What's the possibility of having mutual suppliers – Oxford side; Quarter Keg side? Mr. Spiewak: We have talked to Spencer and Leicester. Mr. Lemansky: Southbridge doesn't

have a problem with us doing a loop from Oxbow Road out to Glenmere Road; but we can't co-mingle the water. Meeting with the Board of Health concluded around 8:03 p.m.

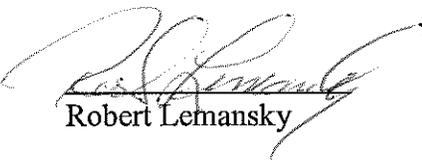
Budget: Mr. Haebler. Do we want to meet with the Finance Committee again on indirect costs or accept the inevitable? **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion that we level fund the line item of indirect costs that's paid to the Town of Charlton with a 2-1/2% increase; seconded by Mr. Spiewak.** Discussion: Mr. Spiewak: Not having been at the last Finance Committee meeting, what was the sentiment? Mr. Haebler: They wanted to bring Keith to the meeting on Wednesday. Mr. Spiewak: They ending up splitting the sewer indirect costs from the water indirect costs. What he did originally was he made one line item of indirect costs. Mr. Lemansky: We told him to take the debt out of there. Then the number came down. They wanted a lot more than \$70,000 last year. Why do we need to redo the math? **Vote: Unanimous.** Mr. Haebler: Does that mean we will we be there Wednesday night? Mr. Lemansky: I'm not going to go. They don't have power over our budget. Mr. Spiewak: We do. Mr. Lemansky: Eleven months from now, no longer can we make the statement that we have to go by the agreement. The agreement ends. Mr Haebler: We spent a lot of money on Charlton City and the S. Sturbridge Road connection. Mr. Spiewak: Do we have funding coming back from the betterment process? Mr. Haebler: We have some money coming back. A lot of people paid. For this year, there should not be a bad deficit. Mr. Lemansky: There is 0 strain on the budget as far as water debt. This debt is on the shoulders of the townspeople. Mr. Haebler: Anything more on the budget? **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion to approve the sewer budget as amended; seconded by Mr. Spiewak. Vote: Unanimous.**

Steve: Tracer study. Mr. Lemansky: This time of the year the residuals were good. Where is Tillyer Avenue in relation to the treatment plant? Mr. Haebler: It is down near Ashland Avenue, off Route 131. This morning I was here. They haven't got the complete results yet. The last three days haven't been tabulated for the fluoride. Mr. Spiewak: Steve sent that out to us. It is good information. Mr. Lemansky: Heather wasn't going to do anything until this was done. Mr. Haebler: Town warrant articles. No issues of which I am aware. Mr. Lemansky: At the last meeting the commission voted on Northside Road. Mr. Haebler: That was two meetings ago and Paul and you had to leave. It was on the agenda for that meeting. Mr. Haebler: There are manholes at the treatment plant that need to be addressed as well as some others. Mr. Lemansky: Frost heaves seem to occur each year. Is this an annual thing? What is Jody's suggestion? Mr. Haebler: I think right now he would just like us to take a look at them. Wednesday night's meeting is posted. Mr. Spiewak: I will go. **Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion that we adjourn and our next meeting is going to be on April 7 at the Town Hall at our new meeting time of 6:30 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Spiewak.** Mr. Spiewak: I will not be at that meeting. I will be traveling on business. **Vote: Unanimous.**

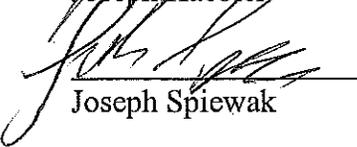
Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

  
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Joseph Haebler

4/24/14  
Date



4/25/14  
Date

  
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Joseph Spiewak

4/23/14  
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