

Meeting Minutes
Charlton Water and Sewer Commission
Date: January 12, 2015

Location: Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall

Attendees:

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

Mr. Gagner: Today is January 12, 2015 and it is approximately 6:35 p.m. Mr. Spiewak: Happy New Year everybody. Mr. Spiewak: **I make a motion we approve the following warrants: Osterman Propane LLC: \$1,395.95; Woodard & Curran: MTA samplings for the period ending 11/28/14: \$374.00; AT&T: \$46.43; and Carol A. Goodspeed: petty cash reimbursement: \$49.53; total: \$1,865.91; Franklin Electric Co., Inc.: for grinder pump installs: \$3,090.40; SPX Flow Technology: lightning mixer model XJ43 purchase: \$3,940.63; Northeast System Electrical Inc.: invoice #1138; VFD controller for EQ #3: \$425.00; mileage: \$113.75; total: \$538.75; Northeast System Electrical Inc.: invoice #1154; installation and programming of Allen Bradley Powerflex 400 VFD and HIM module with cable for EQ pump 3B: \$680.00; materials: \$1,596.82; and mileage: \$114.40; total: \$2,391.22; Lefort Electric Inc.: invoice #1297; pump controls changeout and residential permit for 53 N. Main Street: \$520.00 plus residential permit of \$40.00; total \$560.00; Interstate Water & Wastewater Specialists, LLC: invoice #5267; labor and materials to remove and install 1 mag drum per quoted price: \$7,850.00; E.D.S. Mechanical Inc.: invoice #6346; service heaters and make-up air units and Dextron dehumidifier: \$3,300.00; and labor: \$273.23; total: \$3,573.23; McCann Fabrication: invoice #31079; CoMag Drum repair: \$1,250.00; S.J.B. Construction: invoice #428; excavator work on Sunset Drive: \$675.00; The Abrahams Group: invoice #C1: professional services regarding the Charlton/Southbridge Water Fixed Assets/Capital Reserve Project from project inception through November 21, 2014: \$1,000.00; Commitment warrant for loading surcharges: Service Area 5E: \$21,506.38; 6W: \$10,143.09; total: \$31,649.47; and Commissioner payroll for January: \$400.00; seconded by Mr. Lemansky.** Discussion: Mr. Lemansky asked Steve for an explanation about the Franklin Electric invoice in the amount of \$3,090.40 and asked if that was for new pumps. Steve: That's for goosenecks when we pull them out of the ground. We purchased 20 of them. We had no inventory. Mr. Lemansky: The next one down – the flow meter. Steve: No, that's the mixer for mixing chemicals. They use this out in the tractor shop area when they are blending and mixing chemicals together. Mr. Lemansky: The Northeast Systems Electrical – the VFD's. Are those to replace ones in our plant that aren't working correctly? Steve: We ordered one. Jody likes to vary the speed of the evacuation of the EQ tanks so when we have heavy water coming in, he can vary it. Mr. Lemansky to Steve: Do we have an Abrahams report? Steve: We have a contract which was signed in November. I just got the report. Mr. Gagner: \$31,000 for the MTA loading surcharges—that seems low. Steve: A year ago it was \$27,000; the year prior it was \$37,000; and the year prior to that it was \$80,000. **Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Lemansky: Steve, did you talk to the property owner? Steve: Yes. According to him and his legal people, there was a case of someone with a 700' driveway where there was no betterment issued nor charged. When I talked to our legal counsel a year or so ago, they had nothing on record to indicate one way or the other. I can go back to her for a further reading. Mr. Gagner: Since the water did go down Route 20 whether it was financially available or not, there was a case on record where the town attorney said he could find no case on record. I would go back to the owner of the property (700' driveway) and see if there was something filed. Mr. Lemansky: The requirement is that it is either

available or not available. Where the water main is on the opposite side of the four lane highway that has a median, it doesn't seem to me that it is available from a cost point of view. If there is no lateral there, I think we are responsible to make a judgment. Mr. Gagner: Do we have a right to waive the betterment fee? Mr. Lemansky: If they think we are wrong, they should tell us we are. From a common sense point of view, what's the right thing to do? Mr. Gagner: Do we have the power and ability to do it? The last time we waived a betterment fee was because there was an error. Mr. Lemansky: I would take the position that the perception was in error. Mr. Gagner: Going back to the homeowner, we can ask him if he could get something from his attorney backing up his claim that the betterment was rescinded. Mr. Gagner to Mr. Lemansky: I respect and agree with your opinion. Mr. Spiewak: There are a number of properties in that scenario. You are on a slippery slope. My recommendation to the commission was that if we wanted to make a change, we go to the DOR and ask them if we are making a mistake. I don't think it is reasonable to charge someone a betterment when the water is on the other side of Route 20. Mr. Gagner: We should wait for an opinion from the DOR.

6:57 p.m. Dick Vaughan of 6 Lakeview Drive met with the commission. I found out that everybody who gets a bill gets a charge of \$30 which is \$120 a year. Mr. Gagner: Our department is responsible for taking care of our business. The town charges us \$78,000 for the year. We send out a couple of guys to read our meters in the plant truck. Mr. Vaughan: The average person here – when they found out they were paying \$30.00 per quarter, people were upset. Mr. Gagner: We have a meter reader that costs us a lot of money. When you pay your bill, that goes to the town hall. We use the services of the tax collector's office. With respect to meters, in the middle of 2008, we had decided a certain number of people on meter had to have their meters read; and we came up with a price of \$30.00 per account. Sending out the bill is part of that \$78,000 the town charges us. We have not increased our rates in several years. Mr. Vaughan was concerned that the cubic foot usage was the same for the most recent two invoices received. He found that unusual. Mr. Spiewak: Some people have gardens. The meter seems to be reading correctly. Mr. Vaughan inquired about the word 'Default' on the invoice and also the question of whether the Vadar system rounds off numbers. Mr. Lemansky to Mr. Vaughan: We are charged by the Assessors' Office and the Tax Collector's Office as we use their services; \$130 per quarter for soft costs. Mr. Vaughan was not aware of this. He had concerns that his usage was actual and recorded 800 cubic feet for two consecutive bills. Carol explained that sometimes the periods of time between readings aren't the same. Mr. Spiewak: We owe Mr. Vaughan a couple of responses; and we will follow up on this bills and if there's something out of the ordinary, we'll take the next step. Also find out what the word "Default" means. Mr. Spiewak to Mr. Vaughan: Also if you have an issue finding the meter, call me. Mr. Lemansky: When you talk to the Vadar people, find out whether Vadar rounds off numbers. It appears that it does. I believe we drew from what other municipalities do. There is a minimum charge and that's where I believe the \$30 came in. Mr. Lemansky reiterated the fact that we have to pay the Town of Charlton for their services: highway, fire, the tax collector, the town accountant, etc. Meeting with Mr. Vaughan ended at 7:27 p.m.

Steve continued with the office report. Calls and emails relative to the HVAC mold situation. Calls have been made as to the manhole at the top of hill at the Masonic Home; and a letter to them asking them for an engineered solution. We have also contacted a contractor to fix the cross country manhole where we found roots growing in. Mr. Gagner to Steve: Have you had any contact with the new administrator in response to this clogging? This project is new to her. Steve: I have sent letters, left messages, but have not spoken with anyone in that position. Mr. Lemansky: I was in a meeting last week with Ms. Campbell at the Masonic Home. She is the acting director. She is concerned about the letter she received. On both sides, we are waiting for the outcome of the manhole reconstruction and

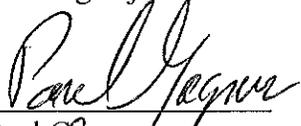
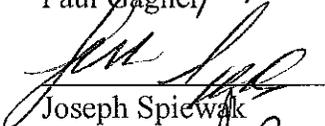
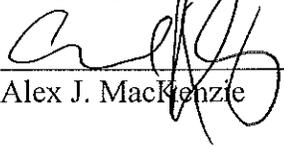
trying to make a determination of whether or not improvements will need to be made to the pump station. Steve: We have one rigging estimate in and are waiting on a couple of others with respect to the rigging of the staging in the plant. Mr. Lemansky: I had given you the name of Robert Johnson who is a structural engineer but also does fabrication. Steve continued with his office report. The Masonic Home manhole was clogged on December 29th which was the worst we had seen in a number of months. That precipitated both letters. Cross country manhole—J. Davis Road (where Jody had done a lot of work): Steve: I have had discussions with two drainlayers. I bumped into one of them who said he'll get back to me. Meter readings were started.

The bill for the CoMag unit is complete and is all in. The total bill for that process was \$9,100. We had planned on \$93,000 so we made out very well. It would have cost that much if we had had to replace the CoMag unit. We received notice from the town about using state contracts for cost savings. At the plant we are using the state contract for propane, for the plant truck purchase, for the leasing of both copiers, and will continue to use these opportunities. Woodard & Curran has been asked to provide manpower to aid in the mold treatment process. We have tried ammonia but it is too overcoming and diluted bleach; Odor ban; and Lysol works pretty well. The issues we are up against are ladders and manpower to do that. There is a Board of Selectmen meeting on the 20th about the landfill. Who will attend?

Mr. Lemansky sent Steve an email regarding the budget for 2016. Mr. Gagner: Does anyone have any other business? Mr. Lemansky: On the Route 20 situation, we will get an opinion from the DOR and ask for the landowner his reference that he referred to. Mr. Spiewak: When you say you want that generic on that Route 20 issue? Mr. Lemansky: Rather than the site specific? Mr. Lemansky: Anywhere on Route 20 where we have that situation to where the road is four lanes with a median strip and that the water main is on the opposite side and no lateral is provided? Is that property that is in that situation considered to have water being available—when we know the cost would be \$40,000 - \$50,000 to do the hookup?

Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion we adjourn and will meet again at the treatment plant on January 26, 2015; seconded by Mr. Lemansky. Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

 _____ Paul Gagner	<u>3/9/15</u> Date	_____ Robert Lemansky	_____ Date
 _____ Joseph Spiewak	<u>3/9/15</u> Date	_____ Shabana S. Gagner	_____ Date
 _____ Alex J. Mackenzie	<u>9 MAR 15</u> Date		