

Meeting Minutes
Charlton Water and Sewer Commission
Date: December 21, 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	Gabriel J. Berthiaume	N
Alex J. MacKenzie	Y		

Mr. Gagner: Welcome everyone to another exciting meeting of the Charlton Water & Sewer Commission. Today is December 21st and it is 6:30 p.m. As usual we will start off with paying some bills.

Mr. Spiewak read the warrants from Carol's report. **Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion we approve the following warrants: Verizon: \$372.57; AT&T: \$75.53; total: \$448.10; Ricoh USA Inc.: rental of copier: period from 12/6/15 – 1/5/16: \$141.30; and 1/6/16 – 2/5/16: \$141.30; total: \$282.60; ReadyRefresh: \$9.95; Osterman Propane LLC: \$1,058.16; Quill Corporation: supplies; \$189.85; total: \$1,540.56; Town of Charlton: cost to remove liens on three properties at the Collector's Office: \$12.00; Worcester District Registry of Deeds: filing fees to remove liens on three properties: \$225.00; E.J. Prescott, Inc.: #5031430: 8 IPerl units: \$1,336.48; 8 MXU units: \$1,415.68; and 16 ECR touchpads: \$245.60; total: \$2,997.76; Xylem Water Solutions U.S.A., Inc.: invoice #3556871201: EQ 2 & 3—spare pump: \$8,895.00; Franklin Electric: invoice #91461017; relay replacements: \$700.00; RACO Manufacturing & Engineering Co.: invoice #91077: cost of shipping various equipment to the treatment plant (original warrant signed on 12/7/15): \$40.00; seconded by Mr. Lemansky. Mr. Lemansky to Steve: This is for the removal of the betterment. Steve: It was for removal of the lien. Mr. Lemansky: We identified the error. Do these people get whatever money they have paid in. Steve: I don't have that answer yet. Mr. Lemansky: Clearly there were mistakes made. The rule from the Department of Revenue is that while we are under the Special Legislation, we can't do abatements. I classify these as errors. Should we be encouraging the tax department to return the funds to the people. Steve: I have asked the question of the collector, the assessor and the accountant and asked whether there is a vehicle we can use to do that. I don't have an answer as yet. **Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015 as printed; seconded by Mr. Lemansky. Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Spiewak: I make a motion to approve the minutes of November 23, 2015 as printed; seconded by Mr. Lemansky. Vote: 3 yesses and 1 abstention.****

Steve gave his office report. We are waiting on information regarding the water pump service area. I asked them for an estimate and am waiting to hear back. Calls and emails for grinder pump replacements. We have installed 54 grinder pumps to date. We still have 17 at the plant. We have 3 more scheduled. EPA and DEP: They have just now signed a permit write up. I'll keep you posted. The author takes the new regulations and looks at the old regulations and tailors the permit accordingly. Steve continued: Sonic starts are being prepared for installation. (Mr. MacKenzie arrived at 6:47 p.m.) Steve: The RBC covers. We had a meeting on December 2. All parties were present. The plan is to start on Monday morning, the 14th, at 6 a.m. and continue until 3:30 p.m. The first two days will be to assemble and make sure all the parts are going to go together. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: they will put up 1, 2 and 3; and the following week they will put up 4, 5 and 6; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; then the MTA stations: 4, 5 and 6 days. Still working on the sewer rates; I'll keep it on the to do list. Next, Steve advised that he called Vadar as we were having issues with the software. The

town hall called in Ken from Micronet; and he was able to get everything up and running. The bills went out on Tuesday. Steve continued: We had Thursday and Friday off. Steve advised that he has gathered more information in conjunction with rates; compared the usages of the MTA against our flows; and I expect to get some information out to the commission this week so that we can look at where we are supposed to be and where we will go. Mr. Spiewak: Mr. Chair—so far we have looked at expenses and income; compared to where we budget and where the money will come from and I will send spreadsheets to Steve so he can send them out to you. Our retained earnings have been trending down in the last three years.

7:10 p.m. Chris McClure met with the commission. 'At the last time I attended, we discussed applying for a grant for a water study which was voted in during the Patrick administration. The Water & Sewer Commission was interested in grant monies and how to get access to that money. I had reached out to State Representative Peter Durant's office and was referred back to the Town Administrator's office. I talked to Robin as to how to gain access to that money – how to apply. I put together a Master Plan. What direction are you going to go relative to the expansion of the water system; and getting water to the Charlton reservoir? It is a starting point. Future expansion? Once that is determined, we can put a package together to go after some of that money, and develop water expansion in Charlton. Mr. Lemansky to Chris: What's available right now is \$30,000.00. As to the \$6,000,000—it will be available for a period of five years as long as we come forward with a comprehensive plan; i.e., the East Charlton reservoir – possibility of connecting with the Oxford system. Servicing was too far out. That opens the door to consider going with Aquarian. The DOT salt shed has done considerable damage in that area. There needs to be some study work done. We were going to be the operators and this was going to be treated as a consecutive water system. Mr. Lemansky to Chris: There was an option in the water agreement with Southbridge. Water from Oxford would be another municipal agreement. You may want to address that. The commission is fully engaged in this. Mr. Gagner inquired whether the town of Oxford had the desire to sell us water. Mr. McClure: Way back when I talked to Oxford, they indicated that they could not answer until they knew what Charlton was looking for with respect to Pioneer Drive beyond Schmidt Equipment. They do have a tank there. Mr. Gagner to Chris: What is the source of Oxford's water? Chris: Gravel. We have the as built from the buildout. Mr. Gagner to Chris: We tested up to Richardson's Corner but not east of there. Across from Abbott Construction, there is a gravel box. There's nothing down Oxbow or Glenmere. Mr. Lemansky to Steve: When Mass Highway was doing drainage work across from Dad's, they were supposed to pressure test the line. Mr. Gagner: Some of the guardrails may have punctured the pipes. Ms. Craver joined the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Ms. Craver: You have \$30,000.00 from the water grant. I'll continue to advocate being comprehensive as you go. One of my main concerns is regarding the sewer loop and another 6 miles of infrastructure. The commission needs to go forward with a study regarding becoming a consecutive water supply. Dollars are going to Southbridge. I don't know what the total cost will be to continue to build the system in a partial way, not knowing where you want to go. I think it's premature. I will not contact Aquarian unless our chairman directs me to. When I look at the planning grant, I think about where to go next. Mr. McClure: Review information on the consecutive water supply. You know how many properties are connected to the water system. The other component: The town of Southbridge was doing a rate study on what the wholesale rate would be.

Ms. Craver: I've gone to Community Compact asking for funding. I could talk with them about using that toward Oxford. Then Chris could do the technical components. That's about \$25,000 to \$30,000. I want to avoid down the road 5 years saying 'we should have looked at it'...Contamination over where Casella is – we need a permanent solution. The other area you have no other plans for is the

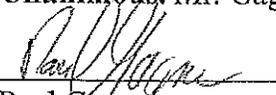
Buffumville area. Mr. MacKenzie to Mr. McClure: You can't do secondary treatment – it has to be disinfectant secondary treatment.

Ms. Craver: They are going to the watershed basis. The \$6,000,000 bond. It has been authorized but it has not been funded yet. It was written by Oxford. They were looking for water down in the Buffumville area. Mr. Lemansky to Mr. Spiewak: You brought up the point. We should look into the study of the consecutive water system with Southbridge. The only thing that matters is that Southbridge did give us a paragraph about the consecutive water supply in the Intermunicipal Agreement. A letter from us to the Southbridge DPW should be drafted asking, 'what are you going to charge us for a fee?' We will have a meter at the town line. Whatever it reads, we have to pay for it. If the water doesn't meet the requirement, then it is our responsibility for the quality. We will have a huge obligation. We will have to take on a water department which means we have to have employees and equipment. Ms. Craver: You can't use Whitewater. Mr. Lemansky: As long as we pay them. The last thing I want to do is make bills higher if we go to a consecutive water supply--180,000 gallons a day Charlton and Southbridge customers, those bills will be higher. If we go back to East Charlton—there are residential wells over there that produce 100,000 g.p.d. If we were to find that water source and keep it under 100,000 gallons, that could be the water source to do the school loop, Charlton Center, and go back down Old Worcester Road and do East Charlton; and we would cut that portion out of the agreement with Southbridge. We would use our own source and our own department. I see that as the most economical way to go. I would be very cautious to do a consecutive water supply. The question is 'What are we going to have to pay?' Mr. Gagner: Southbridge can give us what they are going to charge, say 10%. . How much discount do we need to get – we don't know the figure. We also need to get some standard for quality. Quality has to be maintained. Mr. Lemansky: It was Weston & Sampson who did an analysis in 2004, 2005 and 2006 as to what it would cost for us to operate our own water department. We have a pretty good idea of what it takes to put a Master Plan together. It was going to cost about \$126,000.00 a year to operate our own system.

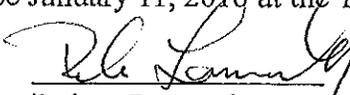
Mr. Spiewak: Given where the water line runs and not being practical, **I make a motion that we re-vote the betterment for 26B-A-1 from \$44,493.90 to \$0; seconded by Mr. MacKenzie.** Discussion: If the water line went up Route 31... the water lines are dry. Mr. Berthiaume: ...If he was to hook up...Southbridge would have to give him permission to connect. Then he would be subject to a privilege fee. **Vote: Mr. Spiewak: I; Mr. MacKenzie: I; Mr. Gagner: Abstained; Mr. Lemansky and Mr. Gagner.** Motion passes. Mr. Spiewak to Steve: Write a letter to him advising that we are going to have it zeroed out.

Steve: The Town Administrator sent me a form to fill out. I sent it to you for comments. If the comments are ok, I'll send it to her. Mr. Lemansky: What's the purpose of the form? Steve: I don't know. They are asking for cost estimate changes. I heard that it was dumping into the Connecticut Water District, but it is dumping into Long Island Sound. They asked what the obligations that we had were. They asked what our rates are; debt we are carrying which is \$6,500,000; and does the municipality have a master plan? Additional requirements \$1,800,000--we borrowed today for the North Main Street Extension.

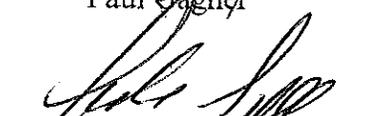
8:35 p.m. Mr. Lemansky: I make a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Spiewak. Vote: Unanimous. Mr. Gagner: Our next meeting will be January 11, 2016 at the Town Hall.


Paul Gagner

2/2/16
Date


Robert Lemansky

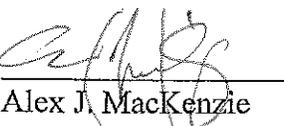
7/25/14
Date


Joseph Spiewak

7/25/14
Date


Gabriel J. Berthiaume

7/25/14
Date


Alex J. MacKenzie

25 JUL 16
Date