



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of March 9, 2020
Water/Sewer Commission

Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

Present: Dave Cantwell, Paul Gagner, Russ Jennings, Jenn Vaughan, Peter Boria, Sue Guerin
Absent: Rob Lemansky

I. Call to Order

Mr. Gagner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

II. Commissioner's Public Forum

III. Consent Agenda/Warrant/Abatements Approvals as Needed

**Mr. Jennings motioned to accept the minutes from February 24, 2020 as printed
Seconded by Mr. Cantwell.**

**Mr. Jennings motioned to accept the warrants for March 9, 2020 as printed in the amount in the amount
of \$47,424.40. Seconded by Mr. Cantwell. Motion passes unanimously.**

IV. Scheduled Appointments

6:40pm Public Hearing- Sewer Surcharge Rate Increase

Mr. Gagner opened the Public hearing

"The Charlton Water and Sewer Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:40pm in the Selectmen's meeting room, 37 Main Street, Charlton Ma to discuss and consider increasing the Sewer Rate Surcharges. Anyone wishing to be heard on this matter should appear on the date and time specified."

Mr. Oatley (from Veolia) was unable to attend but provided us with information that the industry benchmark to oxidize 25mg/l of ammonia is equivalent to oxidizing 115mg/l of BOD loading. What we charge for BOD is \$3.58 per pound in excess of 250 mg/l and what we charge for ammonia is \$4.68 per pound in excess of 40mg/L. That is a 4.6 ratio to treat ammonia versus BOD.

The BOD surcharges seem to be effective in what the customers are charged to motivate them to pretreat and knock down their level. The ammonia surcharge does not seem to have that same effect because it is not equivalent. Based on the information we have from Mr. Oatley and the discussions that we have had, Mr. Boria recommends we increase the ammonia surcharge to \$16.47 per pound in excess of 40mg/L, following the industry standard.

Mr. Boria has been in contact with Treehouse Brewery, Karl Storz and the MTA to discuss what was going to be recommended.

Mr. Boria stated that we did not receive any response to the Public hearing notice via email, mail or phone call.

Mr. Ed Abrahams, Facility Leader for the North East was present and representing the McDonald's Corporation. He understands that their waste has heavier Ammonia, due to the waste they have mainly comes from bathrooms. He asked the commission that if there was something they could do, and will do what is right for both the TOC and their business.

Mr. Boria suggested working with Veolia to come up with a creative idea to get the levels knocked down.

Mr. Jennings motions to close the public hearing. Seconded by Mr. Cantwell. Motion passes unanimously.

At the last meeting the Commission asked that Mr. Boria contact the Westborough WWTP in regards to their levels. Mr. Boria believes that they take in so much flow that is not an issue. Mr. Boria also reached out to Ludlow who did not get back to him.

Mr. Jennings motions to accept the new surcharge as printed, \$16.47. Mr. Boria stated that it would be effective July 1st for that next quarter billing cycle. **Mr. Cantwell seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

V. Old Business

FY 2021 Budget

Attached in the packet was a copy of the FY 2021 budget received from the Finance Director and it has the staffing change that was voted on at a previous meeting. Everything else is correct and ready for approval. Mr. Boria has an appointment to present the budget to the Finance Committee on March 19th at 9:15pm.

Mr. Boria reviewed the sewer budget and noted that the only change (for both budgets) is that this year all salaries will come out of sewer with the Sewer Administrator salary brought to zero based on previous discussion. Sewer expenses are stable to what we have had previously. This budget will balance without retained earnings or stabilization.

Mr. Jennings motioned to approve the sewer budget as printed. Seconded by Mr. Cantwell. Motion passes with Ms. Vaughan opposed.

Mr. Boria reviewed the water budget and past water expenses from FY 18, FY 19 and FY 20 YTD. Each year larger sums are carried but the money is not always spent. If it is not spent, we will see the following year in retained earnings. The only water revenue we have is from the TOS distribution payment and also retained earnings.

Mr. Jennings motioned to accept the water budget as printed. Seconded by Mr. Cantwell. Motion passes with Ms. Vaughn opposed.

Mr. Gagner asked Ms. Vaughan why she opposed each of the budgets. She stated that she was absent and didn't agree with the 0% funding (of the position) and that is why she voted Nay.

Water Line Construction Update.

Bay Path and Overlook Pump Stations – The power has been connected at both pump stations. Albanese will be working at both pump stations performing the plumbing connections in the buildings over the next 2 weeks. They will also complete the exterior grading at both sites. The startup of the Overlook pump station is the priority. The manufacturer will be on site the next two weeks to perform the startup and testing of the pump station and the generator. After startup and testing is completed the lines will be flushed, tested and chlorinated if necessary, then the pump station will be activated, and the Masonic Home will be put online. We are hoping to have that done by the end of March. We are also trying to plan the activation of the Bay Path pump station to take place the week of April Vacation. Once the Overlook is on, we will move into the School Loop. Albanese Brothers is preparing a paving plan and schedule for all the roads affected by the construction last year. After the Overlook Pump Station is activated Albanese Brothers will flush, test and chlorinate the line so that it can be activated. Kleinfelder is working on finalizing their service installation agreement.

Casella Water Line Extension – This project is in its final phase. The only thing going on is the decommissioning of the private wells for the homes that have connected.

Mr. Gagner asked what was going on at Buffumville. Mr. Boria stated that at present it is in BETA's hands. With the contract newly approved, we are waiting for them to get going. He believes they are waiting for a surveyor to get out there, do the topographic survey and the wetland delineation, then start preparing that site plan.

Next Meeting – March 23, 2020

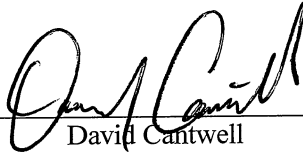
Mr. Jennings made the motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm Seconded by Mr. Cantwell. Motion passes unanimously.

Submitted by:
Sue Guerin
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:



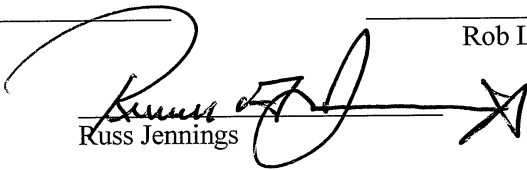
Paul Gagner



David Cantwell

Jenn H. Vaughan

Rob Lemansky



Russ Jennings

Minutes were approved and signed on 6/1/2020.