



**TOWN OF CHARLTON**  
Minutes of September 23, 2019  
Water/Sewer Commission

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

**I. Call to Order**

**Mr. Lemansky called the meeting to order at 6:32pm**

**II. Commissioner's Public Forum**

**III. Consent Agenda/Warrant/Abatements Approvals as Needed**

**Mr. Jennings motioned to approve the minutes from September 9, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Gagner. Motion passed unanimously with Ms. Vaughan abstaining.**

**Mr. Jennings motioned to approve the warrants in the amount of \$20,442.67. Seconded by Mr. Gagner. Motion passes unanimously.**

**IV. Scheduled Appointments**

**6:40pm Zach Donahue of Veolia - Monthly Operating Report**

Mr. Donahue reviewed the August MOR. There were no safety accidents or incidents, monthly safety checklist was completed. The safety training this month was on fall protection. In August we exceeded our effluent zinc daily limit. On August 1<sup>st</sup> the effluent E. coli result was above our daily maximum permit limit. It was retested as soon as possible and came back under limit.

The weekly and monthly maintenance check list was completed. The weekly generator full load exercise was completed; critical alarms were tested. Pump Stations: All pump station alarm tests and full load generator tests were completed. MTA's were sampled on August 7<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. On August 5<sup>th</sup> the level sensor failed at the Vine St pump station. The new sensor was installed on the 8<sup>th</sup>. On August 28 it was discovered that the phone line going to the S. Sturbridge pump station was down. Verizon was called and the repairs were made.

There were no grinder pump calls and 2 dig safes for the month of August.

**Additional remarks**

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Veolia received a seal failure alarm at the N. Sturbridge pump station. Mr. Donahue is looking for approval to have Slims Sewer service come in to repair the broken discharge pipe. This is the same thing that was repaired on the other pump at this station in June. The repair cost will be the same rate of \$3600/ day as quoted back in May. **Mr. Jennings motion to approve the \$3,600.00 day rate.**

**Seconded by Ms. Vaughan. Motion passes unanimously**

At the last meeting we discussed the possibility of switching from the wireless RACO alarm dialer to the landline Sensaphone alarm dialer. This would replace the RACO units as well as keep one as a spare. The cost would be \$3,634.53 for the seven Sensaphone dialers as opposed to \$9,765.00 for the RACO dialers. Mr. Boria states that this would only make sense because we would not use the RACO units to their full ability. The RACO agreement expires in December and this will give Mr. Donahue time to purchase and install them. **Mr. Jennings motioned to approve the \$3,634.53 for the Sensaphone dialers. Seconded by Mr. Gagner. Motion passes unanimously.** Mr. Boria stated there will still be fees attached with them, similar to the RACO units which was about \$360.00 annually, but with more dependability.

RBC's 1 and 2 are now covered. They are operational and have been tested. We just need the exhaust fans wired by and electrician.

At the last meeting it was asked to look into having the generator at the water booster station serviced. The generator isn't currently connected to a propane tank. Mr. Donahue would recommend getting a medium sized propane tank on site and hooked up to the generator so that it can be run and serviced going forward.

**Grant Award – Green Communities Competitive Grant**

We have been awarded a Green Communities Grant to upgrade the electric motors and blowers which run 24/7. We applied for the grant for more electrical efficiency. Veolia had one of their contractors come out and prepare an estimate of \$94,000. We applied for the Green Communities grant along with other Departments in town and received it. Because of the project size, we will need to use a pre-approved contractor. We have an approved vendor coming out tomorrow to come up with a game plan. This is to provide and install efficiency motors, variable frequency drives and blower for tanks 1,2 and 3. The new equipment will give us a power savings. Mr. Boria stated that he may come before the commission for approval of: the blowers go into diffusers at the bottom of the tanks, right now they are stainless rails with holes drilled in them. Where the holes are drilled, they seem to be corroding. He will work on getting you a price for those.

**173 Sunset Drive – Request for sewer abatement.**

Mr. Bonneville, homeowner was present. Mr. Boria stated that the homeowner was here to request an abatement for his sewer bill. We had a copy of his building permit as well as a copy of his outstanding balance as of 9-23-2019. On the building permit it was noted that all plumbing be capped. The capping was verified by Mr. Labbe (past project manager of Veolia) and Mr. Boria, but his account was not put on hold to stop sewer bills (he is a flat rate customer). Mr. Bonneville had several of his bills returned to us with no forwarding address. This last bill came back with an updated address and was sent to the owner which prompted his call for the past due balance. If the commission approves, Mr. Boria will work with the tax collector to see if the demand and interest charges can be abated. **Mr. Gagner motion to abate the full amount. Seconded by Mr. Jennings. Motion passes unanimously with Mr. Lemansky abstaining.**

**New Business**

**Special Town Meeting**

October 8<sup>th</sup> is the Special Town Meeting. We will have requests in 2 articles

Article 1. Appropriation of funds for unpaid bills of a prior fiscal year.

There are invoices from FY19 that are outstanding from Veolia. The invoices occurred during the transition of Keith Labbe to Zach Donahue, Project Manager. The invoices total \$5,488.09 and because they were purchased in FY19 we will need town approval to pay them. **Mr. Jennings motioned to approve article one as printed. Seconded by Mr. Gagner. Motion passes unanimously.**

The second article will be to transfer funds from retained earnings and our RRFA to our stabilization accounts.

To	Amount	From
Water Stabilization	\$20,436	Water Retained Earnings
Water Stabilization	\$3,455,814.17	Water RRFA
Sewer Stabilization	\$323,355	Sewer Retained Earnings

If these transfers are approved it will leave us with the following balances in the accounts:

RRFA Reserved for Water Capital and Debt Fund after this transfer will be \$0  
 Water Stabilization after two transfers in will be \$3,526,687.93

Mr. Lemansky stated that we receive interest from the stabilization accounts, but requires 2/3 vote in order to spend from it.

**Mr. Jennings motion to make recommendation to approve article 7 as printed. Seconded by Ms. Vaughan. Motion passes unanimously.**

**2020 Meeting Dates.**

Attached was a list of proposed 2020 WS meeting dates for approval

**Ms. Vaughan made a motion to accept the 2020 Water Sewer meeting schedule as printed. Seconded by Mr. Jennings. Motion passes unanimously.**

**VADAR Training**

The Town has an upcoming VADAR training scheduled on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> to be held in West Boylston. Sue has expressed interest in and feels it would be beneficial to the office if she goes. If there is no objection we will schedule her to attend the training. **Mr. Lemansky stated that there are no objections.**

**DEP Meeting- Gould Rd Water Contamination**

Mr. Boria informed the commission that Jim Philbrook, Board of Health Director has coordinated a meeting with the DEP to discuss water contamination issues on Gould Rd on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Exxon Mobil will be there and Mr. Lemansky expressed interest in attending. Mr. Boria and Mr. Philbrook discussed having a pre meeting and asked for approval to include McClure Engineering and CMG Environmental to help come up with a game plan. If we feel they will be an asset, we can include them at the DEP meeting. We do have money in our engineering budget as well as some water grant funding. Mr. Jennings stated he was in favor of that. **Mr. Lemansky gave general consent to move forward.**

**MGL 61- Removal Lot 2 – 311 Stafford Street. MBL 9-B-5**

The Board of Selectman have a request to remove a portion on property located at 311 Stafford St. from Chapter 61. There is a single family home on approx. 15 acres. The additional acreage is under Chapter 61 and would like to remove it so that they can create a new lot. **Mr. Jennings motions to notify the BOS that we have no interest in the property. Seconded by Ms. Vaughan. Motion passes unanimously.**

**V. Old Business****59 N. Main Street New Water Connection**

At our last meeting we discussed funding the water connection of 59 N. Main Street. This property is currently being sampled and monitored by the town due to past gas spills at the previous Town Highway barn on N. Main St. Gary Magnuson of CMG Environmental oversees the annual DEP RTN number for the Town Highway Barn and his oversight annually costs approx. 6,000.00. If the town were to connect this parcel to the water line, The DEP would allow us to close out the RTN. Attached was a quote from DC engineering to complete the connection in the amount of \$4,675.00. With that, there is the fee for the TOS connection fee in the amount of \$2,000.00 and the cost of the plumbing work estimated to be around \$500.00. If the connection is not done, the TOC will continue to work with CMG and the fees of \$6000.00/year in monitoring costs. **Mr. Jennings motioned to accept the quote from DC Engineering and approve the total project cost of \$7,175.00. Seconded by Mr. Gagner. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Water Line Construction Update.**

**Berry Corner Rd.** – Ludlow has completed all the service lines to the homes. We are now waiting on the plumber to start making the physical connections inside the houses. Berry Corner has been fully reclaimed and a base coat of asphalt has been installed. H. Foote has been reclaimed last week to just past Eleanor Lane and was base coated on Saturday. They are in the process this week to reclaim the remainder of H. Foote Rd. and put the base coat down this upcoming Saturday. Then we will get the schedule of when they will topcoat. This Project is moving forward and is anticipated to be pretty much closed out this year.

**School Loop** – Albanese has completed all of the water main installation in the roadway except where the 2 culvert replacements are taking place on Old Worcester Rd. The road will remain closed until that area where the culvert is being replaced is passable. They have exposed the sewer line that runs under it, and getting ready to encase that sewer line per their plan. Mr. Lemansky stated that this is a huge

inconvenience and apologizes for the inconvenience its causing. Mr. Boria stated that he appreciates the patience and cooperation of the residents. They have one crew at the culvert, one installing services on Old Worcester Rd and Morton Station , and one crew at the water main at the Masonic Home for the pump station project. They are doing all the ground work now, so that when the pump station comes it will be all set to be installed.

**Rte. 169 Pump Station** – The TOS has been operating the pump station for the past 2 weeks, we have been told there have been no issues and the pump station is operating correctly. There is a commissioning ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, September 25 at 11:00 if any commissioners are interested in attending.

**Buffumville Public Water Supply -**

The Planning Board has approved the ANR plan for the portion of the Phillips' property that was approved for purchase. Mr. Boria has been working with BETA to finalize a scope of work to present to the DEP for approval of the FY20 Grant.

Mr. Boria continues to talk with the TOS about becoming a consecutive water supplier. They are in receipt of information from the Abrahams group. Heather (Blakely) has not had time to review it yet.

**VI. Next Meeting - October 7th**

**Mr. Jennings makes a motion to go into Executive Session under M.G.L c.30A, Sec 21(a) #6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease of value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiation position of the public body.**

**Seconded by Mr. Gagner**

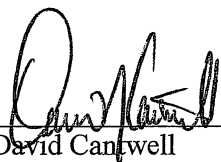
**The commission will come out of Executive session for the sole purpose of adjournment.**

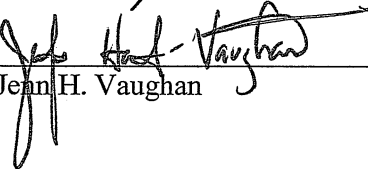
**Mr. Gagner made the motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm Seconded by Mr. Jennings. Motion passes unanimously.**

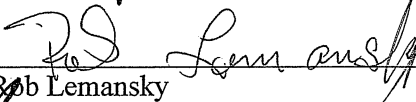
Submitted by:  
Sue Guerin  
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Gagner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Cantwell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jenn H. Vaughan

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Lemansky

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russ Jennings

Minutes were approved and signed on 10/7/19.