



**WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 22, 2021**

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5:30 PM – Conference Room B, 63 Main Street Northborough MA

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Meader  
David Pepe  
Bryant Firmin

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Charpentier, Public Works Director  
Tim Davison, Water & Sewer Supervisor  
Julianne Hirsh, BOS Liaison

Commissioner Meader opened the meeting at 5:31 PM.

***1. Approval of minutes of March 16, 2021 regular meeting***

Commissioner Pepe moved to approve the meeting minutes of the March 16, 2021 regular meeting as amended; Commissioner Firmin seconded the motion; The vote was all in favor.

***2. Sewer Bill Adjustment – 26 Winn Street, Account 937***

Mr. Charpentier and the Commission reviewed information pertaining to a sewer bill adjustment request for account number 937 located at 26 Winn Street due to catastrophic damage done to the pool during the 2020 fall season.

Mr. Charpentier reviewed request and is recommending approval of a sewer abatement in the amount of 3,342 cubic feet totaling \$404.09 as the in-kind pool liner replacement will be 18' X 36' X 4'6" average depth which equates to approximately 25,000 gallons of water (3,342 cubic feet) per the pool contractor's estimate and Town confirmation.

The Commission discussed the information presented. Based on past precedence, Commissioner Firmin moved to approve the request for a credit of \$404.09 (3,342 cf / 25,000 gallons) as this is an exceptional case that was not caused by customer action or choice. Commissioner Pepe seconded the motion; The vote was all in favor.

***3. Sewer Bill Adjustment – 23 Hoover Road, Account 1594***

Mr. Charpentier and the Commission reviewed information pertaining to a sewer bill adjustment request for account number 1594 located at 23 Hoover Road due to catastrophic damage done to the pool during the 2020-2021 winter season.

Mr. Charpentier reviewed request and is recommending approval of a sewer abatement in the amount of 1,216 cubic feet totaling \$144.79 as the in-kind pool liner replacement will be 24' X 15' X 4'6" average depth which equates to approximately 10,000 gallons of water (3,342 cubic feet) per the pool contractor's estimate and Town confirmation.

The Commission discussed the information presented. Based on past precedence, Commissioner Pepe moved to approve the request for a credit of \$144.79 (1,216 cf / 9,096

gallons) as this is an exceptional case that was not caused by customer action or choice. Commissioner Firmin seconded the motion; The vote was all in favor.

**5. Review and execute sewer betterment recording documents.**

Commissioner Firmin moved to execute the water and sewer betterments recording document for the following address: 5 Goddard Road, Northborough Massachusetts, 01532. Commissioner Pepe seconded the motion; the vote was all in favor.

Sewer Betterment Total:       \$9,100.00  
Water Betterment Total:       \$4,200.00

Betterment documents will be recorded at the Worcester District Registry of Deeds. Once recorded, all information will be sent to the Principal Assessor & Finance Director for final assessment.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Charpentier informed the Commission that the electrical supply for the new Water Sewer Garage requires an easement be granted to National Grid and that the electrical design needed to be modified to comply with the National grid supply design. A proposed change order was submitted by the contractor and is currently under review. The building permit drawings are being developed and the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School (AVRTHS) staff and students are prepared to work on the project. The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) trade work may need to be bid out because the AVRTHS currently does not have an HVAC instructor to lead the work.

Mr. Charpentier informed the Commission that the Town received a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Energy Environmental Affairs (EEA) in the amount of \$168,750.00 to fund 75% of the design and permitting for removal of the Northborough Reservoir Dam. A contract is being executed in the amount of \$225,000.00 for the work which is expected to take 18-months to complete. A second grant application was submitted to the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) to fund design work associated with upstream restoration of the former stream bed. The Town is awaiting notification of their review.

Mr. Charpentier informed the Commission that the repair contract for the Assabet Hill Water Storage Tank was awarded to DN Tank (formerly Natgun Tank) who was the original builder of the tank. The work will proceed during the low demand season in Autumn.

Mr. Charpentier informed the Commission that the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) project that was approved for approximately 60% implementation at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting is planned to begin in Fiscal Year 2022. The recently approved Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 provides substantial funds to Northborough. ARPA identifies one category of project eligible for fund as those that are also eligible under the State's clean water and drinking water revolving funds. The 100% SCADA project is currently listed on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Intended Use Plan which means that it is eligible for full funding through ARPA. The Town is awaiting further direction from the State for use of these funds.

Mr. Charpentier informed the Commission that town counsel has advised that discussions regarding the Marlborough sewer litigation should still be conducted in Executive Session and only cursory updates should be provided in Open Meeting. The trial began on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 9:00 AM and concluded at 4:15 PM on Tuesday, June 22, 2021. The City of Marlborough called two material witnesses, Mr. Sean Divoll Commissioner of Public Works, and Mr. Andrew Pope Public Works Financial Analyst, and one expert witness, Mr. Mark Abrahams. The Town of Northborough called one expert witness Mr. Christopher Woodcock. Final post trial briefs are due to the court by the end July after which the Commission can meet in Executive Session to discuss the details of the trial and proceedings.

Ms. Hirsh asked if there is any information about information pertaining to PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Mr. Charpentier stated that these chemicals are for industrial use and often are found in fire resistant materials. They are most common to groundwater sources and much less common in surface water sources such as the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA). Mr. Davison stated that the MWRA does test for PFAS and they have information on their website. Mr. Charpentier stated that the soon to be mailed Consumer Confidence Report will likely contain PFAS information as well.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 5:30PM.

**Adjourn:** Commissioner Pepe moved the Board vote to adjourn at 6:21 PM; Commissioner Firmin seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott D. Charpentier

Documents used during meeting:

1. June 22, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. March 16, 2021 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
3. MEMO RE: Account 937 – 26 Winn Street, sewer abatement
4. MEMO RE: Account 1594 – 23 Hoover Road, sewer abatement
5. Water & Sewer Betterment Documents - 5 Goddard Road Northborough, MA 01532