

**RECEIVED**

By Karen Wilber at 8:06 am, Dec 14, 2022

**WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

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5:30 PM – Conference Room B, 63 Main Street Northborough, MA 01532

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Meader  
Bryant Firmin (late arrival)  
David Pepe

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott Charpentier, Public Works Director  
Tim Davison, Water/Sewer Supervisor  
Robert Luke, Administrative Assistant  
Julianne Hirsh, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Commissioner Meader opened the meeting at 5:43 PM.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 16, 2022 PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 16, 2022 public hearing as written by Commissioner Pepe; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Meader. Vote was taken by roll call, Commissioner Pepe “aye,” Commissioner Firmin was not yet present, Commissioner Meader “aye;” the vote was unanimous with two votes in favor.

**CONSIDERATION OF SEWER ABATEMENT FOR 14 FAIRWAY DRIVE**

Mr. Charpentier explained that the owner of 14 Fairway Drive reached out to the Department of Public Works (DPW) to request a sewer abatement for refilling their swimming pool after experiencing catastrophic damage to their liner during the 2021-2022 winter season. Mr. Charpentier referred to the memorandum he prepared that detailed the exceptional case. The homeowner’s written request was included with the memorandum as well as the pool liner receipt and charts from our Beacon water usage software. The refill amount, after factoring out average daily usage, equated to approximately 2,596 cubic feet to refill the pool after replacement. The net result is a sewer abatement request in the amount of \$311.84. Commissioner Meader inquired as to how the resident, in her letter to the Town, arrived at 30,000 gallons as the estimated volume as the Beacon software indicated approximately 19,418 gallons were actually used. Mr. Charpentier replied that he did not know.

Motion made by Commissioner Pepe to approve the request for a sewer abatement for 14 Fairway Drive as an exceptional case; Commissioner Meader seconded the motion. Vote was taken by roll call, Commissioner Pepe “aye,” Commissioner Meader “aye,” Commissioner Firmin was not yet present. The vote was unanimous with two votes in favor.

## **DEMOLITION OF 455 MAIN STREET STRUCTURES**

Mr. Charpentier began by informing Commissioners of the three structures on the Haistma property and how the barn suffered a substantial structural failure last winter and how the garage is now listing and unsafe. The issue was brought before the Historic District Commission and they agreed it needed to be removed and requested the Town attempt to save the sign as well as some of the structural beams inside the barn. Mr. Charpentier noted that we received three quotes for demolition with the award going to the apparent low bidder Infrastructure, LTD. Mr. Charpentier also noted that he would inform the Commission of any salvage that may be obtained in the process and that the beams would remain the property of the Sewer Division. Commissioner Meader inquired about windows in the structure and that the Town may want to test the caulking for contaminants such as PCB.

Commissioner Firmin motioned to authorize the Director Public Works to proceed with demolition of the Haistma property structures as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pepe. Vote was taken by roll call, Commissioner Pepe “aye,” Commissioner Firmin “aye,” Commissioner Meader “aye,” the vote was unanimous with three votes in favor.

## **BELMONT STREET WATER MAIN EXTENSION**

Mr. Charpentier informed the Commission that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has proposed a water main extension from Lawrence Street west along Belmont Street (Route 9) to capture Northborough’s commercial section. Those drinking water wells have been deemed problematic due to MassDOT operations in the area. MassDOT will pay for all design work, construction, bidding & administration services, and all betterments for the affected properties to connect to the Town water system.

The Town will manage the bidding and construction administration engineering phases of the project with funding to be provided by MassDOT through a contractual grant to the Town. Construction funding will also be provided by MassDOT but payments will be made directly to the contractor.

## **INITIAL DISCUSSION OF WATER REGULATION CHANGES**

Mr. Charpentier has proposed raising the administrative fee for final reads from \$25 to \$50 and also requiring three-business-days' notice for all requested final reads. Mr. Charpentier is also proposing to reduce the number of days' notice to residents for water rate changes from 30 days to 14 days. The existing timeline is too tight and leaves no room for unexpected events and unforeseen circumstances that may occur throughout the process. Mr. Charpentier is also requesting that we engage Raftelis Financial Consultants to aid the Town in assessing the privilege fee structure and provide various options in the determination of this fee. Finally, Mr. Charpentier is proposing the elimination of the underground irrigation prohibition. The prohibition began as an attempt to conserve water when the Town was still using groundwater wells as the primary water supply. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) now provides 100% of the Town's water supply. Backflow contamination was also a primary concern but since that time the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has enacted cross connection control regulations which mitigate this concern.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2022 at 5:30 PM. This will be an in-person meeting at 63 Main Street, Conference Room B.

## **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Pepe moved the Board vote to adjourn at 6:34 PM; Commissioner Firmin seconded the motion. Vote was taken by roll call, Commissioner Firmin "aye," Commissioner Pepe "aye," Commissioner Meader "aye;" the vote was unanimous with three votes in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Luke  
Administrative Assistant

### *Documents used during meeting:*

1. September 27, 2022 meeting agenda
2. August 16, 2022 public hearing minutes
3. Memorandum detailing 14 Fairway Drive sewer abatement request