

Board of Water and Sewer Commissioner's Meeting March 3, 2021

Present: Scott Zajkowski, William Conley, Tom Fournier, Robert Sullivan, Jay Spahl George Patrinos, and Jennifer Cournoyer

Attended Meeting: Doug Lebel, Dan Aguiar, Scott Hemming, Robert Ruda and Jeff Faulkner and Mike Schrader from Tighe and Bond

Scott opened the meeting at 6:32 pm and read the Governor's Order and then the Pledge of Allegiance

Accept the minutes of February 3, 2021: Tom made a motion to accept the minutes of February 3, 2021, Jay seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Jay, Bob, Bill and Scott abstained as he has not read the minutes at this time, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Accept the minutes of January 21, 2021: Tom made a motion to accept the minutes of February 16, 2021, Jay seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Jay, Bob, Bill, Scott abstained as he has not read the minute at this time, all in favor, passed unanimously.

2 Menzone Drive and 19 Progress Ave – to connect – Doug Lebel: Doug Lebel was here looking to get permission to tie into water and sewer for 19 Progress Ave and Sewer for 2 Menzone Drive a private well will be put in on this address, a discussion occurred. Tom asked if there would be a meter on the well, George stated yes, more discussion occurred, and it was amended that Doug was asking for water and sewer at 2 Menzone Drive incase there are any problems with putting in a well at 2 Menzone Drive.

Tom made a motion to allow water and sewer connection at 2 Menzone Drive, Jay seconded the motion provided all By-Laws are followed and fees paid, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Jay, Bob, Bill and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Tom made motion to all water and sewer connection at 19 Progress Ave, Jay seconded the motion provided all By-laws are followed and fees paid, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Jay, Bob, Bill and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

36 Pine Street- permission to contact to water- Scott Hemming: Scott Hemming was here looking to connect to water for a single-family home at 36 Pine Street. George stated that water is not directly in front of 36 Pine Street and he will need to extend the water main to the end of his property and he will work with the department to be sure it is done correctly.

Jay made a motion to allow 36 Pine Street to connect to Town Water provided all the By-laws are followed and fees are paid. Tom seconded the motion, no discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Jay, Tom, Bob, Bill and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

5 Brandon Road – permission to connect to Town Sewer- Dan Aguiar: An updated plan was submitted showing them using a manhole that is already there and using gravity fed system. It was asked where the pipe would be run, and Dan explained it would be run in the should of the road. George asked that if where the pipe connects from the property to the main in the road if there could be a manhole. Dan explained he would add that, not a problem.

Tom made a motion to allow 5 Brandon Road to connect to Sewer on Chase Ave as discussed, Bob seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Bob, Jay, Bill and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Legacy Landing- Airport Road – Looking for an extension on the Water and Sewer permits: Robert Ruda was in attendance to the meeting, a discussion occurred as Robert Ruda is looking for an extension because at this time, they are in the process of a purchase and sales agreement. He then asked why the permit would not follow the address? He stated he paid \$350 last year for an extension and he would be paying \$350 again for this year, if extended. Tom explained that there is By-law that states the Sewer Permit does not follow the address. Scott stated the concern was that past developers kept extending and then selling the projects and it becomes difficult to keep track of and it could tie up water capacity. A discussion occurred and then George suggested perhaps giving a six-month extension.

Tom made a motion for a six-month extension, Bill stated that he did not think the six-month extension was fair and that should be consistent in giving a one-year extension as had been done in past practice. If there is no current policy in place for extension limits, then we really cannot deny him. **Tom amended his original motion, for a one-year extension, Bob seconded the motion, (and stated to have this policy on the next meeting agenda) no further discussion a roll call vote was taken Tom, Bob, Jay, Bill Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.**

Public Hearing for Rate Increase: Scott opened the public hearing at 7:38pm. A Rate Study was done over one year ago by Tighe and Bond with increases in the rates yearly to help deal with the costs of improving infrastructure and other issues in need of addressing. The study proposes for FY2022 an 18% increase for Water rates and a 15% increase for Sewer rates. Bob asked Jeff Faulkner if there were any changes needed to the rate increase due to the ever-changing needs of the department at this time. Jeff stated that yes there are some new and additional projects that are needed, and it may be a little too early to look at adjust the plan right now, may need to re-evaluate in about six months, but he would not recommend lowering the rates at this time. Tom stated that with all the projects coming down the line we need to do a rate increase. Bob then stated that this is something that we will need to re-visit every year. A discussion occurred about notification of the rate increase and if should notify the public by mail about the entire rate increase in years to come.

Bob made a motion to close the public hearing, Bill seconded the motion, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Bob, Bill, Tom, Jay and Scott, all in favor – public hearing closed at 8:00pm

Bill made a motion to increase the water rates by 18% and sewer rates by 15% for FY2022, effective July 1, 2021, Jay seconded the motion, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Bill, Jay, Bob, Tom and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Bill made a motion to send out a notice in the April billing stating water sewer rates will be increasing to improve the current infrastructure, Tom seconded the motion, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Bill, Tom, Jay, Bob and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Station 3 Update- temporary versus permanent vessel: George stated that the blending will be occurring as soon as we work with DEP and get their approval. Will be blending Station 3 and Station 6; we need Station 3 at peak during the summer months which will affect the blending. Looking to have a temporary carbon-based vessel at Station #3 to mitigate the PFAS and this will help with the pumping needs. The vessel is a lease to own option and has been discussed with DEP and Jeff Faulkner from

Tighe and Bond and all feel is a good idea. It is a \$750,000 expenditure for 2 ½ years. I would like to take the \$350,000 that has been approved and use it towards the vessel and then borrow 1 million in a ten year note and use what we need and then the rest can cover a wide variety of items for PFAS and stations. I feel that would be the way to go. I am looking for approval to go forward with the vessel. Jeff Faulkner then stated that the blending project is about a month or so out, early April and it may not correct the PFAS levels. A discussion occurred regarding a temporary treatment for PFAS at Well 7 site and the price of the vessel. George discussed was the need of a Town Meeting Article towards this and that the process is an engineered process and Tighe and Bond is working on a proposal for a temporary PFAS System.

Scott: What is the timeline for getting this on-line?

Jeff: The procuring in the June time frame and then bidding, design, and permitting with hopes of temporary PFAS System by the Fall.

More discussion occurred about vessel and how to purchase if approved. Discussion also occurred about blending and PFAS limits.

A discussion occurred about the Sewer incident that occurred on Christmas Eve and receiving notification from DEP regarding it. A discussion occurred as to if should do a study as to why it happened and how to prevent it. The board decided to hold off until I & I completed.

Articles for Town Meeting: George presented a list of items for consideration for Town Meeting Articles they are as follow:

- Asset Management Plan (required by DEP – Estimated Cost \$150,000? retained earnings)
- Final design/permitting/bidding for PFAS Water Treatment Facility at Station #6 site
- Pump Station #1 Water Main Project from Pump Station #1 to Pump Station #6 (treatment)
- Final construction appropriation for PFAS Water Treatment Facility at Station #6

Total of 3 phases estimated – 6-12 Million

- Appropriation through borrowing of 1 million dollars to be used for rehabilitation and PFAS mitigation projects for Pumping Station #1, #3 & #6 (suggested by Town Treasurer)
- Supplemental \$400,000 for temporary PFAS treatment vessel at Pumping Station #3 – already approved \$350,000 (remaining from main project), need to appropriate \$400,000 (borrow from 1 million)
- New Ford F-350 4x4 Heavy Duty Pick-up Truck with truck side plow set up (replaces 15-year-old F-150)

3 Quotes obtained

1. MHQ - \$43,093.0

2. Minute Man - \$43,423.00
3. Place Motor - \$41,736.00

PFAS Lawsuit: will sign up for it and pursue it.

Job Reclassifications: George stated that Brian's position of Primary Operator has been approved and in place. Have been asked to allow the rest of new job descriptions/classifications to go through the negotiation process, which will be starting soon. George then stated that ne needs someone soon as Mike will be leaving in November. This will be a combined water sewer position. George is looking for permission to hire a laborer position and move Luke into the Mechanic's position till they work out new classifications.

Bill made a motion to move Luke up, discussion then occurred. Bob then made a motion to fill the Mechanics position and fill the Laborer position, Tom seconded the motion, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Bob, Tom, Bill, Jay and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

George's Merit Raise: Scott stated according to the Personnel Handbook, the most that can be given for a merit raise is 3%, the Board of Water Sewer Commissioners makes the recommendation to the Personnel Board and then it goes to the Board of Selectman.

Tom made a motion to recommend giving George a 3% Merit Raise retroactive to 11/11/2020, Bob seconded the motion, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Bob, Bill, Jay and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously. (A letter of recommendation to Personnel Board to be written)

Emails for Commissioners: A discussion was continued from last month regarding the need for town emails and the cost.

Jay made a motion to go ahead and approve the use and purchase of official town emails, Tom seconded, no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken, Jay, Tom, Bill, Bob and Scott, all in favor, passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: George provided a copy of his report to the Commissioners and it is listed below, there were no questions or concerns regarding it.

Water

1. Last month's bacteria samples came back clean
2. Rebuilt and modified chemical feed quill at Station #3
3. 2 new Krone flows meters have been installed for Well #3 and Well #7 operations
4. Frank Sullivan came this past Monday and installed the new 60p submersible pump into Well #7
5. Lafleur Electric is working on finishing all wiring and mounting for the new well vfd and controls. Waiting on special circuit breaker that was ordered.
6. Electricians through the energy efficiency program (National Grid) has installed all new LED lighting in all stations and garages

7. Meeting last Friday with Tighe and Bond to go over projects, concentrated on Mason Rd Water Main Project (this spring) and temporary PFAS treatment vessel for Station #3
8. Cleaned out and marked out new street gates at Station #3 and Station #6 for the new blending water main when it goes online
9. Starting to work on five (5) year plan for Capital Improvement Committee
10. Articles in place for CIP and Town Meeting (see agenda)

Sewer

1. Met with developers for projects on Progress Ave and Menzone Drive
2. Plowed out stations for Sewer and Water Departments
3. Met with Tighe and Bond on I & I (pipe lining project)
4. Various streets marked out for Dig Safe
5. Serviced Jetter and equipment for upcoming season
6. Assisted Water Department with meter replacement and repairs
7. New Energy Efficient lights for sewer building

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Bob seconded the motion, a roll call vote was taken, Tom, Bob, Bill Jay and Scott, all in favor, unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:56 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Cournoyer, Administrative Assistant