



TOWN OF CHARLTON
Minutes of February 1, 2021
Water/Sewer Commission
Remote Meeting

Submitted by _____

Date _____

Received by _____

Date _____

Present: Dave Cantwell, Paul Gagner, Jack Rydlak, Peter Boria, Sue Guerin
Absent: Russ Jennings

- I. **Call to Order.**
- II. **Commissioner's Public Forum**
- III. **Consent Agenda/Warrants Approvals as Needed**

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the minutes as written from January 4, 2021.

Seconded by Mr. Cantwell

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, aye

Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the warrants for February 1, 2021 in the amount of \$101,028.38.

Seconded by Mr. Rydlak

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, aye

Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the senior abatements in the amount of \$768.53.

Seconded by Mr. Rydlak

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, aye

Motion passes unanimously.

- IV. **Scheduled Appointments**

Veolia - Vinny Masterson present.

December MOR - The monthly safety check list was completed. December's safety training was on bloodborne pathogens and safety in the workplace on JJ Keller's online platform. In December, the plant exceeded Aluminum for the monthly limit. Permit level is 93 micrograms/liter and the reported result was 385 micrograms/liter. There were also 2 Zinc exceedances, they were both 147 and the permit is 142ug/l, once these exceedances were received, the PAC was turned back up to get Zinc into compliance. Recently there was a meeting with DEP and EPA, they are now in the process of creating a new draft Administrative Order, that will help us stay in compliance for Aluminum until the new permit is issued. Operations and Maintenance- Tree limbs and brush out of the flood trough were cut. New VFD was installed for Comag sludge pump #3. EQ tank 3B was drained and cleaned. The next day we fabricated and installed 14 new aeration pipes. Original set up had 7 coarse air diffusers, there are now 14. RBC #7 overflowed, the spill was contained inside the building, therefore there is no spill to officially report. As part of this cleaning the plant water tank was dosed with chlorine to disinfect. The spill was caused by excessive rain.

Pump Station Activities - All pump station alarm tests were completed. Monthly full load generator exercising was completed. Vine St pump station generator started having issues. Installed a small air compressor at 5E, it is attached to 18" of aeration tubing, trying to get a little bit of pre-treatment before the high BOD gets to the plant. Veolia had a crew jetting and videoing the collection system. Several pump stations had tree branches overhanging the fences. They have since been cut and cleaned out. N. Main Street pump station had a power failure. When this happened, the generator ran but was not powering anything. This was not caused by a generator component, the circuit breaker that was tripping is in the main electric panel. Slims Sewer Service was called to manage the incoming flow, while Lafleur Electric was in route. They found a small circuit breaker that helps the transfer switch work. It has been ordered but

not installed yet. Due to heavy rain and winds on 12/5/2020 Muggett Hill Pump Station was without power for several hours. When it reached high level, Slims Sewer Service was called to keep the level under control. There were 6 grinder pump calls and 27 dig safes.

Zinc Pilot Study update

John Oatley, Vinny Masterson, and Peter Boria met with Dough Koopman from the EPA and David Boyer from the MA DEP. They discussed the letter that was sent out which was approved at a previous W/S meeting. The letter requested that our Aluminum limit be increased so that we can continue using PAC to meet our Zinc limits.

Our current NPDES permit issued in 2010-2011 expired in 2015-2016. Because its expired, there has not been much discussion on what the new permit might look like for discharge limits or what changes they may want for the plant, it is hard to do an analysis of the best way, or to talk about making any substantial changes to help us treat Zinc, when we don't know if we will have to do other changes in a year or two when we get a new NPDES permit.

In that discussion Mr. Koopman seemed to be on board with it and stated that he would go back and see if he could draft something to increase our Aluminum limit temporarily for the remainder of our current NPDES permit, until the new one is issued.

V. New Business

Annual Town Meeting - Warrant Article

The operation agreement with Veolia is set to expire in October of 2021. Our current agreement has a term of 3 years with two one-year options. Mr. Boria would like to extend the length of the term when we go out to bid for the next agreement. According to MA Procurement Law to enter into an agreement longer than 3 years, you need town meeting approval. Mr. Boria has spoken with the Town Administrator and asked to put a place holder on the Town Meeting Warrant for us to do that. Mr. Boria would like to recommend that we ask for an initial 5-year term with two 5-year options. Mr. Boria explained that the RFP will identify what it takes to currently operate the system and will bid based on that. If there is no objection Mr. Boria will continue to work with the Town Administrator.

Water/Sewer Commission Member Resignation.

Phil Donohue resigned as a Water/Sewer Commissioner as of January 6, 2021. The Town Clerk has added his open seat to the election in May as a 2-year set. Mr. Boria stated that the election is only a few months away and feels it is ok to leave the seat open. Both Mr. Boria and Mr. Cantwell thanked Mr. Donohue for his time and work he gave the commission.

Sewer Treatment Plant - Ceiling Tile Replacement.

Mr. Cantwell recused himself.

Mr. Boria informed the commission that at the treatment plant there are multiple tiles throughout the office and lab that have water stains and possible mold issues. A quote from M&M Cleaning and Restoration was received (attached as part of packet) to remove and replace all ceiling tiles, clean all areas affected by the tile replacement and handle any mold abatement that may be necessary.

Mr. Gagner expressed that he feels if it is water damage due to a leak or condensation, that they find the cause before the tiles are replaced. Mr. Boria stated that the stains are not growing, and it is not an ongoing issue. Mr. Boria suggested that while replacing tiles they do a good cleaning and look for leaks. **Mr. Gagner would like to entertain a motion to get this job done. Mr. Rydlak agreed to motion to approve the funding when asked.**

Seconded by Mr. Gagner.

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, abstain.

Motion passes.

2020 Annual Report.

Attached to the packet was a copy of the 2020 Annual report for the commission to review/edit.

The report is due to Mary Devlin by March 4th.

Mr. Boria suggested reviewing and approving tonight or review and approve at the March meeting.

Mr. Cantwell requested that it be put on the next agenda and wait to approve at the March meeting.

Countryside Condominiums.

Countryside Condo's, both water and sewer customers, are billed base on the Town of Southbridge meter reads. At the last WS meeting it was approved to issue an abatement for the July-Sept 2020 billing because they had a water line that was leaking prior to the building and their usage did not enter the sewer system. The leak was found in December 2020, which is causing another erroneous read. Mr. Boria asked if the commission would consider billing (for the qtr. of Oct-Dec 2020) using an average of the last 8 quarters.

Mr. Gagner motioned that they are billed according to the average they have used over the last 8 quarters. Seconded by Mr. Rydlak

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, aye

Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Old Business**SCADA upgrade – Request for Proposal**

Veolia has worked with our vendors to create the attached scope of work for the SCADA upgrade. This was forwarded to the Town Administrator and he was asked to create an RFP so that vendors can submit how they will approach the project first, then attach a bid price separately.

The commission was emailed a copy of the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) completed by Mr. Golas earlier today and were asked to review. This will allow us to choose by best company/ experience versus lowest bidder. If there is no objection Mr. Boria will have Mr. Oatley and Mr. Masterson look it over and will continue to work with the Town Administrator.

FY 2022 Water and Sewer Budget.

The last meeting a copy of the budget was presented to the commission for review. At that time, it was requested that it be added to this agenda so that there was time to look it over. If reviewed and there are not any questions, Mr. Boria will need a vote to approve so he can forward to the Finance Director.

Mr. Gagner motioned to approve the budget as presented. Seconded by Mr. Rydlak

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, aye

Motion passes unanimously.

Waterline Construction Update

Bay Path Pump Station – there has not been any work done over the past 4 weeks.

Service Connections – Albanese Brothers have not installed any service connections over the last four weeks due to holidays and weather. Their plumbing contractor is starting to do work in homes where the service lines have been installed into the basement.

VII. Other Business – unknown at time of posting.**VIII. Next Meeting Announcement**

Next Meeting – March 1, 2021

Mr. Gagner motions to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Seconded by Mr. Rydlak

Roll call vote was taken. Rydlak aye, Gagner aye, Cantwell, aye,

Motion passes unanimously.

Submitted by:
Sue Guerin
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by:



Dave Cantwell



Paul Gagner

Jack Rydlak

Russ Jennings

Minutes were approved on 3/3/2021.