

Town of Wilmington
Water & Sewer Commission
July 16, 2020 Meeting

The Water and Sewer Commission met via ZOOM on July 16, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Roll Call: Present were Chairman Joseph Balliro, Commissioner George Allan, Commissioner Robert LaVita, Utility & Business Manager Joseph Lobao, and Recording Secretary Diane Forest.

ZOOM Meeting

Read Into Record by Chairman Joseph Balliro: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c 30A, section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, the meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission will be conducted via remote participation. Members of the public who wish to watch and listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: WCTV. **No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted**, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. Members of the public who wish to listen to this meeting while in progress may also do so via telephone by dialing **(312) 626-6799** and entering meeting ID 81788162468 then press # and press # again at the next voice prompt.

Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment, by following the steps previously noted then press *9 on their telephone keypad. This will notify the meeting host that the caller wishes to speak. All callers using this feature will be placed in queue in the order they entered the prompt. In the event that despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide real-time access, we will post a record of this meeting on the Town's website as soon as we are able.

Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2020 – ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2020.

Billing Adjustments & Corrections – There were none

Monthly Reports

The June 2020 monthly report was presented to and reviewed by the Commission members.

Annual Town Meeting 2020

Mr. Lobao presented a recap of the 2020 Annual Town meeting relative to the Water Division. The following two articles passed at Town Meeting.

- **Article No. 53** To see if the Town will vote to authorize The Town Manager, in cooperation with the Water & Sewer Commission, to lease all or a portion of the below-referenced property, currently the site of the so-called Nassau Avenue water tower and currently used jointly for water supply purposes and telecommunications leasing, to one or more telecommunications companies for the location of telecommunications facilities thereon, and to grant such easements upon said land as are necessary for utility services in support of such use; and further to authorize the Tow Manager to enter into such lease or leases for said purposes for

all or a portion of the land upon which said Nassau Avenue water tower is situated, located on Nassau Avenue and shown on Assessors Map 31 Lot 59 and acquired by The Water Commission pursuant to a vote taken under Article 3 of the December 30, 1927 Special Town Meeting, upon such terms and conditions, and for a period in excess of three years, as the Town Manager shall determine to be in the best interest of the Town; and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into such agreements and execute such documents and instruments as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; or to take any other action related thereto.

- Article No. 39 To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) Fund to pay for a portion of the cost for Salem Street Wellfield Rehabilitation Project; or take any other action related thereto.

Ballardvale Street WST Rehabilitation – Update

Since the last Water & Sewer Commission meeting this project has been completed. This concrete tank was built in the late 1980's and has not been rehabilitated until now. The final walk through was on July 15, 2020. The exterior paint job looks great and the safety improvements were completed satisfactorily to specifications. There was \$225,000 budgeted for this project and with one change order the final cost ended up under budget at \$183,000.

2020 Hydrant Maintenance

Mr. Lobao informed the Commission that over the last month and a half, the Water Department's maintenance crew has been inspecting and exercising all 1,260 Town owned fire hydrants. This endeavor takes place to ensure that all fire hydrants have adequate pressure and are operational. There were fourteen (14) hydrants identified as needing to be replaced. All fourteen (14) hydrants have been replaced. The Fire Department has been notified of all hydrant replacements and repairs.

2020 Lead & Copper Sampling Results

In 1991, the Environmental Protection Agency published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule. There are 30 residential homes and 2 schools that are sampled for lead and copper every 3 years. This was an extra sampling round that was required by the MA DEP due to the replacement of the Barrows Wellfield. 30 residential samples were collected and analyzed at the laboratory. There were no school samples collected due to the Covid-19 shutdown. The Town is in full compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule, as the sample results returned were within the required 90th percentile. All residents who participated in the sampling round have been notified of the results.

24 Freeport Drive – Water Meter

Chairman Balliro, in the interest of being transparent, disclosed that both Commissioner LaVita and Commissioner Allan know the owner of 24 Freeport Drive and communicated via email relative to this agenda item. They appropriately informed Chairman Balliro of their association with the owner.

Commissioner Allan stated that he has known Ann Carideo and her family for many years, however feels that he and the other Commission members can address and vote on this issue fairly, as they always have and that the members have always worked fairly with the consumer to come up with a fair resolution and is confident that they will do so that in this case.

Commissioner LaVita stated that he has lived around the corner from the Carideo family for many years and that Ann is a very close family friend. Commissioner LaVita stated that he did not feel comfortable voting on the agenda item due to his close association with the family and wishes to abstain.

Mr. Lobao stated that it appeared this may possibly be a case of an inaccurate meter. The meter appeared to be jumping. The meter register has been replaced. Mr. Lobao stated that there are two options to look at going forward. One would be to look at the historical usage on the account or to monitor the usage going forward with the new meter register in place. A discussion took place relative to the history inclusive of a high summer quarter in 2018, which was apparently due to a leaking pool liner. The Commission agreed that a formal abatement request should be submitted for the Commission to move forward with acting on a vote. ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN BALLIRO, IT WAS VOTED TO INSTRUCT THE HOMEOWNER TO SUBMIT A FORMAL ABATMENT REQUEST, AND TO FORGIVE ANY PENTALY OR LATE FEES IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE CURRENT CHARGES BEING DISPUTED.

Other Business

Commissioner Allan asked about the sewer rehabilitation bids. Mr. Lobao stated that the bid opening did take place and the prices came in under budget.

Public Comment Period – There were no requests for public comment.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on August 20, 2020.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn carries at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Diane Forest, Recording Secretary