

**Board of Public Works**  
**06/17/21 – Minutes**  
**“Go To Meeting”**

**Present via remote login:**

DPW Board Members: Chair – Tom Nephew, Pat Harrington, Lewis Lunn, George Clark; DPW Director – Ken Kalinowski, DPW Business Manager – Paul Brinkman.

**Call to Order at 5:30 p.m.**

Chairman Tom Nephew called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and announced that it was being recorded and broadcast.

Ken asked that the Board take one agenda item out of order, and welcomed Paul Brinkman as the new DPW Business Manager. Paul expressed his interest in learning more about what the Board expected from this newly defined position.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

- **May 13, 2021 (Regular)**

Ken Kalinowski informed the Board that these minutes were not ready, but would be presented at the July meeting. The Board determined that there were no obvious signs of the leak detectable by the owner.

**Abatements:**

**5 Elm St (Leach-Scott)**

Ms. Leach -Scott presented her issue which essentially was related to a leak on the heating system. A profile had been run by the staff and the date the excess use stopped coincided with the date of the heating system shut down. It was not clear whether or not the water leak entered the sewer system and Tom Nephew suggested that the owner consult with her plumber to try and make that determination. The owner agreed to table the request and return at the July meeting with this information.

**74 Hollis St (McGrath)**

Mr. McGrath indicated that he was representing the estate of his brother and that this being requested due to a leaking toilet in a location that was not typically used by the elderly occupant. Paul noted that it was a large leak -approximately 2,000 gallons/day. It

was stated that arrangements had been made to keep an eye on this fixture in the future. George Clark suggested that the toilet (valve) be shut off if nobody was going to use it.

*Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 982 in the amount of \$301.34 in water and \$86.11 in sewer. Tom Nephew explained how the relief was calculated. George Clark seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

### **114 Main St (Lantzaki)**

Ken explained that the customer was unable to attend the meeting and asked to be deferred to the July meeting.

### **91 Lowell Rd – units 1&2 (admin)**

Ken explained that this was an administrative oversight in that the \$2500 sewer connection fees were billed, but it was discovered that they had already been paid.

*Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 6412 for sewer connection fees in the amount of \$2500. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

*Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 6413 for sewer connection fees in the amount of \$2500. George Clark seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

### **11 Tucker St, Unit 2 (admin)**

Ken stated that this was related to charges for a unit in LaSammana Court. He explained that there was an agreement in place with the developer that waived the sewer connection fees in exchange for a drainage easement and sidewalk repairs that were required due to the town requesting that all the water services be installed at the same time to allow the town to pave the road. The agreement further stipulated that water connections would not be billed until such time as the building permits were pulled for each respective building. This construction was delayed over a year due to Covid, but our billing software continued to assess and accrue base charges and interest for this unit. The account has since been 'suspended' in the billing software to preclude this from reoccurring.

*Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 3763 in the amount of \$298.00 in water and \$355.29 in sewer. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

## Water/Sewer Updates

- **Water Ban Violation Appeal.** The new owners of 20 Bacon Street appeared before the Board due to receiving a violation notice for outside water use. They stated that they just moved into a new home which included a recently hydroseeded lawn and an irrigation system. Ken stated that ban went into effect on May 1<sup>st</sup>, with substantial public notice having been given. Ken also reminded the Board that they had previously allowed relief for establishment of new lawns during water ban periods. Pat Harrington noted that Bemis had been offline for 2 years, and that Nashua was offline due to PFAS issues. Ken noted that the well production was stable, but we were currently limited to Jersey Street Well. He was hopeful that with the return of Bemis, the ban could be lifted later this summer. Tom reiterated the guideline of having allowed lawns to be watered if they were established prior to a ban being implemented, and he felt that this property was not in violation. Paul Brinkman noted that there was an underlying layer of complexity due to the PFAS issue, and DEPs desire not to allow water use for extraneous uses in communities with PFAS if it can be avoided. Ken suggested that a vote with language that required minimal watering would be appropriate. The owner stated his lawn was in rough shape and that he was watering his lawn twice per day. Tom asked the owner what he thought would be an appropriate watering schedule and the owner suggested perhaps twice per day (night and midday), as they had been down to once per day at 15 minutes. He also noted that the irrigation installer had originally set the schedule for approximately 4 a.m., 11 a.m. and then at 4:30 p.m. . He stated he was now doing 2 watering's per day at 15 minutes. He had 6 watering zones, and had shut down several zones in which the lawn was doing well. Tom asked if having 15 minutes for each of the zones, twice per day would be sufficient to salvage the lawn. The owner asked if 3 of the zones could be upped to 20 minutes, but would accept 15 minutes. *Pat Harrington made a motion to allow Mr. Labib to expand his watering to 20 minutes, twice per day, morning and evening, until the lawn was established. George Clark expressed concern about the ban being in place for an extended period due to the current situation. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. The vote passed 3-1, with George Clark voting against.* Tom Nephew suggested that the watering occur at 5 a.m. and 5 p.m..
- **Twin Valley Farm.** Ken informed that Board that he had presented a request from Mr. Overshiner to expand the Boards conditional approval to include a bathroom in the barn for use of the farm employees and to waive one of the two \$5,000 sewer connection fees. Due to a scheduling change, Mr. Overshiner had not been notified of the meeting and had not attended to present his case, thus the issue was put back on

tonites agenda. Ken explained that the Board had approved the extra bathroom, but should hear the argument to waive the connection fee. Mr. Overshiner stated that he was trying to save some money, but did acknowledge that the old sewer connection fees would have made a sewer connection a non-starter. Tom asked if there was 1 connection or two. Ken stated it was a 'per structure' fee, but there would only be 1 service line entering the towns system. George said he would look at this as one connection. *Pat Harrington made a motion to waive one of the sewer connection fees for Upswing Farm. George Clark seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

- **PFAS Update.** Ken reviewed the May test results and noted that Nashua Road was approximately 15 parts per trillion (ppt). Bemis was excluded as having been 'non detect' for prior testing and the Jersey Wells were holding steady, which was notable in that it has been subject to intense use for the past 6 months. George mentioned an article he read that stated there was an issue with sludge and dairy cows in Maine. Paul stated that treatment plants of 1 MGD or less to start testing influent and sludge for PFAS. Ken noted that our next discharge permit would include 'monitor and report' requirements for PFAS. Paul added that one big issue is that most constituents are measured in parts per million or billion, but PFAS is being measured in parts per *trillion*. Paul added that he read an article that 22 of 27 wastewater plants in NH had PFAS levels higher than their state standards. Pat asked if DPW and/or Board of Health should be responsible for updating the public. Ken noted that the DPW is responsible for municipal water, but the BoH handles wells, so this might create confusion if there is not a 'lead' agency. Paul added that the PFAS Task Force would be a good venue. Ken said that the Town Administrator and Selectboard were working on finalizing the composition of the Task Force.
- **Bemis Well Treatment Facility Update.** Ken noted that DEP had issued conditional approval to start up the well. A pre-emptive flushing program was undertaken prior to bringing the well online, but the startup still created several dirty water complaints due to several years of inactivity. Ken noted that it was possible that the water ban may be able to be lifted fairly soon if Bemis runs as intended.
- **Drainlayer License Policy Review.** Ken stated that drainlayers licenses run for 1 year, but they are applied for and renewed at different times, creating a tracking nightmare. Ken requested that all licenses expire at the end of December every year, regardless of when they are issued. In response to a potential 'sliding scale' for the fee, it was added that most of the 'regular' licensees renew at the beginning of each year anyway, so it would only impact the one-time applicants who are in town to do a particular project. *Pat Harrington made a motion that any drainlayer license that is*

*applied for or renewed in any calendar year, expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of that calendar year. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

### **DPW**

- **DPW Business Manager.** (addressed earlier in meeting)
- **ATM Warrant Articles.** Ken noted that all the DPW-related articles passed, including all the budgets and the Stormwater Bylaw.
- **Misc Updates.** None.

### **Review & Approve Documents:**

- **Drainlayers license – Echo Knoll Construction / Ken Chaplin.** Ken noted that this was a ‘returning’ licensee and that all the paperwork was in order. *George Clark made a motion to issue a drainlayers license to Echo Knoll Construction. Pat Harrington seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***
- **Commitments.** *The May commitments were signed by the Board.*

### **Commissioners Comments:**

- Ken noted that the Governor had just extended the remote meeting statute put in place for Covid. If a Board or Committee chooses to meet in person, they must have a ‘remote’ option, and the town was working on this ‘hybrid’ process for Pepperell’s boards and committees. The Board expressed its’ preference for in-person meetings as well as paper packets.
- Ken also asked that the Board give some thought to the vacancy on the Board. Tom noted that he had spoken to someone who might be interested, but wished to pursue it further before presenting him. Ken reminded the Board that this would be a joint appointment by the Selectboard and the BPW.
- George Clark mentioned that the Board needed to get back to the Groton IMA. Tom noted that he had reached out to his counterpart in Groton and that he would be meeting with Paul and Ken shortly to resume this process.

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

- July 15, 2021

### **Adjournment:**

*Lewis Lunn made a motion to adjourn. Pat Harrington seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth Kalinowski, PE  
Director of Public Works