

**Board of Public Works**  
**07/22/21 – Minutes**  
**Conference Room A**

DPW Board Members: Chair – Tom Nephew, Pat Harrington, Lewis Lunn; DPW Director – Ken Kalinowski, DPW Business Manager – Paul Brinkman; Ms. Leach-Scott, Don Ross.

**Call to Order at 6:30 p.m.**

Chairman Tom Nephew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that it was being recorded and broadcast.

**Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

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

*Pat Harrington made a motion to approve the May 13<sup>th</sup> minutes as written. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

**Abatements:**

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

This item was tabled from the June meeting so that the customer could do more research to support her abatement request. Ms. Leach-Scott introduced her plumber (Don Ross) who explained at some length that the issue which essentially was related to a leak on the heating system. Tom Nephew explained the Boards abatement process/guidelines.

*Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 3529 in the amount of \$267.95 in water and \$464.86 in sewer. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

**114 Main Street (Lantzaki)**

Mr. Lantzake explained that the excess use was related to a leaking pipe which had subsequently been repaired. The account profile and plumbing invoice corroborated that the leak had been repaired. Tom Nephew explained the Boards abatement process/guidelines.

*Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 1547 in the amount of \$379.73 in water and \$2263.45 in sewer. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.***

**2 Maureens Way (admin)**

Ken explained that as a result of a negotiated settlement for damages allegedly incurred by a faulty water meter installation, the developer would be credited for the next two water connection fees. The account was inadvertently charged a \$2500 connection fee when the most recent water connection application was received, and the request was to abate the fee.

Pat Harrington made a motion to abate the account # 5744 for water connection fees in the amount of \$2500. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### Water/Sewer Updates

- **PFAS Update.** Ken reviewed the June test results and noted that Nashua Road was approximately 17 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. Ken also relayed the fact that MADEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup was sending a consultant to test several old monitoring wells in the vicinity of the Nashua Road well in an attempt to identify a possible source of the PFAS at this site. These wells were installed approximately 12 – 13 years earlier as part of the new source development process. The testing was to be conducted in the next two weeks, and a report would be issued from the consultant. In the interim, the Water staff was working diligently to recover and clear as many of the monitoring wells as possible.
- **Bemis Well Treatment Facility Update.** The staff reported that Bemis was still running well, but that the raw water quality had started to return to historically high levels of iron and manganese much sooner than anticipated. This would likely result in ongoing adjustments to the treatment processes at the plant.

### DPW

- **Selectboard appointment for BPW Commissioner.** Ken informed the Board that a formal request had been made for the Selectboard to appoint Jose Mercado to the vacant seat on the BPW. The Town Administrator will be reaching out to Mr. Mercado and hoped to have this appointment on the next Selectboard agenda.
- **Heald Street Culvert grant award.** Ken announced that due to the extraordinary efforts of the Conservation Coordinator Paula Terrasi, the Town of Pepperell had just received a \$373,000 grant under the MA DER Municipal Culvert Grant Program for the Heald Street culvert replacement project on Sucker Brook. The Town of Pepperell also received an additional \$55,000 under the MA DER Priority Projects Program for the Keyes Parker dam removal and culvert replacement on Sucker Brook. These projects have been in the works for a long time, and construction should commence no later than the summer of 2022.
- **2021 Roads Program.** Ken informed the Board that the paving projects had been finalized and that we were scheduled with the contractor for next week. It was noted that this was later than usual but the recent wet weather had created delays throughout the paving industry. The roads to be repaired included:
  - **Harbor Street.** Pave only, West Street to Shattuck Street.
  - **Groton Street.** Mill and pave from the covered bridge to Hollis Street.
  - **Canal Street.** Mill and pave the entire length from Main Street to River Road.
- **Misc Updates.** Ken noted several projects of interest to the Board.
  - **Rte 113 culvert.** This old and undersized culvert was obstructed and water was backed up due to heavy rains and blockages. Attempts to clear the culvert caused additional damage to

the old pipe. A new, larger pipe was on order, but would not be available for several months due to manufacturing delays. The Highway crews would install a smaller temporary 'relief' pipe before the weekend to relieve pressure, and the situation would continue to be monitored.

- **Roadside mowing.** The Highway Dept had both mowers out full time and were making good progress. It was hoped to complete a pass of the entire town by the end of August.
- **Sidewalk Clearing.** In addition to the roadside mowing, the Highway Supt had requested that the overgrown trees/shrubs along the Main Street sidewalk be cut back, and this work was scheduled to occur in the next week.

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

- **Commitments.**  
*The June commitments were signed by the Board.*

### **Commissioners Comments:**

- **Groton IMA.** Tom Nephew informed the Board that he had met several times with the staff to discuss the IMA and hoped to be able to present something to the full board at the August meeting. This would require an Executive Session.

### **Next Meeting Dates:**

- August 26, 2021

### **Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,  
Kenneth Kalinowski, PE  
Director of Public Works