

Water and Sewer Commission
53 Elm Street
Blackstone, MA 01504
Minutes from September 25, 2014
6:30 pm

Water and Sewer members in attendance:

Charles Sawyer	Dan Keefe	Tom Devlin	Bruce Paterson	John Parmentier
X		X	X	X

Also present:

Recording Secretary: Amy Sutherland

The meeting for the Water and Sewer Commission was opened at 6:30 pm.

15 Valley Street:

The resident did explain that she has made the telephone calls regarding the loan/remodification. It was the understanding that some of the water bill was to be covered under this modification. The documents are going to be sent to the resident.

The Commission will place her on the October 9, 2014 agenda.

16 Ascension Street:

The resident for 16 Ascension Street was present at the meeting.

The Commission was informed that the bill has been going to an address in Texas.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin and seconded by John Parmentier, the Commission voted unanimously to deduct the penalty and interest on the account for 16 Ascension Street.

The resident would like a payment plan once that amount is determined.

Other Payment Plan Agreements:

60 Edgewater St:

The resident currently owes \$842.16. She has agreed to pay \$84.00 a month.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin and seconded by John Parmentier, the

Commission voted unanimously to sign the payment plan of \$84.00 a month for 60 Edgewater St.

8-10 Mill St:

The resident currently owes \$3,192.00. She made a payment of \$500.00.

The resident agreed to a payment plan of \$319.10 a month for 12 months.

- **On a motion made by John Parmentier and seconded by Tom Devlin, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the payment plan for 8-10 Mill Street in the amount of \$319.10 a month.**

231 Blackstone St.:

The resident currently owes \$511.76. The resident would like a payment plan of \$51.76 a month.

- **On a motion made by Bruce Paterson and seconded by John Parmentier, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the payment plan 231 Blackstone Street in the amount of \$51.76 a month.**

Lake Hiawatha:

The Commission is in receipt of an email from Donald DiMartino dated September 17, 2014. The Superintendent attended the meeting. Steve Bonavita of the USDA will be discussing the possibility of setting up sewer districts to get federal grant funding that could provide sewers to properties around Lake Hiawatha. The USDA grant program is looking to get funding distributed to eligible parties.

Harris Pond:

The Commission was informed that the applicant was notified about the meeting. There was not a representative from Harris Pond II present.

The Commission discussed the report from Weston and Sampson which was dated September 10, 2014 for the peer review of the Proposed Sewer Improvements (Second Submittal)-Meadows at Harris Pond Estates II. (See Attached)

The report mentions in several areas that further information from the applicant needs to be provided. The Commission wants to make sure that there is adequate protection for future homeowner's. The town has made a huge investment for Wells #8 and 9.

The Commission did express concern about capacity and availability of future additional flows to Harris Pond I. The Commission does not want to overtax the current low pressure system.

With the future build out of the existing Harris Pond I at 90 lots and the addition of the 54 units at the Hamlet puts the systems at capacity at 144.

The discussion then moved to how the Environmental Protection Association and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection agency are recommending that the groundwater recharge when available to do such is important. This is typically done with title 5 septic systems issued by the Town of Blackstone Board of Health. The Commission agreed that there is adequate distance and height of the proposed Harris Pond II area to warrant title five septic systems.

The original proposal of the project was for 40 lots for gravity fed sewer line to Pickering Road to Farm Street to railroad crossing with proper improvements which would benefit the Town of Blackstone and general area which abuts Blackstone and Woonsocket reservoir. With the new proposal, there is no benefit to the town since with the current project there would be additional cost, maintenance responsibility which would include electricity, cleaning and any repairs to the system. This is a cost which would have to be incurred by the town of Blackstone and it is unknown at the present time.

The Commission is not certain that the lengths of the existing or proposed sewer pipes have been reviewed for accuracy along with the elevations in the model used by Pentair.

The Commission does not think it is in the town's best interest to tie Harris Pond II into Harris Pond I.

On a motion made by Tom Devlin and seconded by Bruce Paterson, the Commission voted unanimously to not allow Harris Pond II to tie into Harris Pond I due to the following reasons:

- Existing Harris Pond I System may not be able to handle additional flows.
- Concern about additional costs to the town is unknown.
- The Town needs to protect the Aquifer and Watershed Areas in and around Wells # 8 and #9.
- The Commission does not recommend to the City of Woonsocket and the State of MA approve the additional capacity to Harris Pond II through Harris Pond I.

There is a concern about the additional flow of drainage coming from Harris Pond II towards Well #8 and future Well #9 and other protected zones. The drainage issue of Harris Pond II to Harris Pond I continues to need attention to protect our aquifer and watershed areas. Water tie in areas also need to be addressed.

23 St. Paul Street:

On a motion made by Tom Devlin and seconded by Bruce Paterson, the Commission vote to lien the property at 23 St. Paul Street for non payment.

Budget FY 2016:

The Commission was made aware that the preliminary FY 2016 budget is due on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. The draft budget will be worked on the week of September 29, 2014. The draft will be forwarded to the members.

Adjourn:

On a motion made by Tom Devlin, and seconded by Bruce Paterson, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland
Recording Secretary