

Town of Upton



Massachusetts

**Meeting Minutes of Thursday, October 18, 2007  
Emergency Meeting**

**Present:** Chairman Marsha A. Paul, Selectman Robert J. Fleming, Selectman Kenneth E. Picard and Administrative Clerk Karen L. Varney,

**Location:** Upton Town Hall, main floor, 1 Main Street

The emergency meeting was called to order at 7:00pm per Chairman Paul to discuss the emergency situation regarding the malfunction of the West River Street Pumping station. Chairman Paul wanted to update Selectman Fleming and Selectman Picard of the urgent situation and to discuss a plan. She continued by saying that she spoke with Frank Sullivan, the original pump installer, who is evaluating the situation, and at this time is unsure of the extent of the problem. A new pump and motor will be ordered, however it could take up to five-weeks for delivery. Chairman Paul spoke of a setback, as the Town has no back up in place. The pump and motor will be extracted and evaluated, and repaired if possible. Approximate cost for a new pump is in the \$23,000.00 range noted Chairman Paul.

The emergency interconnection with the Town of Grafton was turned on as soon as officials were notified, however it has been shut off temporarily this afternoon as Water Superintendent Ron SanSouci told Chairman Paul the Glen Ave Pumping Station is fully operational and doing fine for now.

To compound the situation, a water break occurred today at the corner of Main and Plain Streets. This is the third break on Main Street in recent months. The water pipes on Pleasant St are also very antiquated and need replacement. Chairman Paul stated that the DPW Director, Stephen Soma will attend the Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday and will bring in a map of the Towns' water connections for the Board to review.

Concerns with the shaft and piping, Selectman Picard voiced his fear about possible contamination of the water. Chairman Paul noted her confidence in Frank Sullivan. EMS Director Kemp had contacted MEMA and they will supply the Town with bottled water if necessary.

Issuing an Emergency Declaration was discussed however Selectmen Picard is not in favor of this and expressed his opinion with setting up a plan. Selectman Fleming summarized the costs involved with an Emergency Declaration. Also the tax rate has

45 not yet been set thus, adding this on to the tax base. Chairman Paul is hopeful that a  
46 resolution can be agreed upon Tuesday night when the Finance Committee, Town  
47 Accountant and Collector Treasurer is present. She indicated that it would take about  
48 \$1.1 mil for the Main St and Pleasant St water pipe replacement. Selectman Fleming  
49 agrees with Selectman Picard, saying the spring would be a good time for the work to  
50 begin, and in the meantime, obtain spec bids. Just over half the Town is on public water.

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52 With continued discussion, it was agreed to have the Administrative Assistant  
53 draft an Article for Design Specs for the special Town Meeting, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Chairman  
54 Paul said the purchase of the new pump can be taken out of the water budget for now,  
55 then at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting, ask that the account be replenished.  
56 Chairman Paul asked that Director Soma be directed to call Tata & Howard and Weston  
57 & Sampson and ask them to submit a budgetary quote for bid purposes.

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59 Discussion relative to the legality of sending a flyer with the November water  
60 bills, noting the importance of attending the STM and telling the facts about the  
61 antiquated water pipes. Selectman Picard disagrees, saying you would have to send out  
62 to the entire Town. Selectman Fleming disagrees with sending any such flyer.

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64 Both Representative George N. Peterson Jr., and State Senator Edward M.  
65 Augustus Jr., will be contacted about the availability of State funding to help with the  
66 problem.

67  
68 Chairman Paul expressed her pleasure with the way the Departments pulled  
69 together during this water crisis and worked as a team. She would like to see letters  
70 from the Department Supervisors, thanking the individual employees for all their hard  
71 work and support.

72  
73 DPW Director Soma will be updating Chairman Paul on the situation and in turn  
74 will pass on to Selectman Fleming and Selectman Picard.

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76 In closing, Chairman Paul indicated that there was no emergency water  
77 connection at the Noble Vista location. This needs to be discussed at the Tuesday night  
78 meeting as well.

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81 Chairman Paul gaveled the meeting closed at 7:55pm.

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83  
84 Respectfully submitted,

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86 Karen L. Varney, Administrative Clerk  
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