

**Town of Millbury
Minutes of
Sewer Commission Meeting
July 14, 2020**

TOWN OF MILLBURY
2020 SEP -9 AM 9:18
MILLBURY, MASS

ZOOM MEETING ID# 810 8922 3088

"Welcome to the July 14, 2020 meeting of the Sewer Commission. This meeting is being recorded and streamed by Millbury Public Access Cable Television. This Meeting is also available through Zoom.us/download. Anyone who is participating through Zoom.us/download should state their name and address when speaking."

Attendees: Gary Nelson, Lisa Allain, Happy Erickson, Keith Caruso - DPW Supervisor and Christine Billington Clerk. There were no Zoom attendees.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gary Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The first order of business was to reorganize the board. Secretary Christine Billington asked the board who would like to make a nomination for Chairman-Happy Erickson nominated Gary Nelson for Chairman which Lisa Allain seconded-vote unanimous. Christine then asked for a nomination for Vice Chairman-Lisa Allain nominated Happy Erickson-Gary Nelson seconded-vote unanimous. Christine then asked for a nomination for Clerk-Happy Erickson nominated Lisa Allain-Gary Nelson seconded the nomination-vote unanimous.

ITEM TWO – INVOICES

All invoices were approved and signed

ITEM THREE - MINUTES:

May 12, 2020 – Chairman Gary Nelson asked for a motion to accept the minutes Lisa Allain made the motion Happy Erickson seconded all were in favor.

May 26, 2020 – Chairman Gary Nelson asked for a motion to accept the minutes Happy Erickson made the motion Lisa Allain seconded all in favor.

ITEM FOUR – OPERATIONS:

Chairman Gary Nelson asked DPW Director Keith Caruso if he had anything on operations. Keith informed Gary that he is working on the SRF Program same as last year and funds need to be submitted by August 21, 2020. Gary Nelson stated he thought the Town Manager was looking into this. Keith stated that they were looking into it and would like to send it to Weston & Sampson to complete it. Gary asked that Weston & Sampson be invited to the next meeting to discuss this. He calculated that the cost of this will be seven million over the next 15 years. Town Manager Jamie Kelley joined the meeting to state that this is a great program and he supports using this money to offset costs to the town.

Also discussed was the meter deduction program. Gary Nelson has concerns about the program and the pros and cons of the system itself. He raised a valid point by comparing his water usage verses the amount of water homeowners are deducting for outside watering. One example was a homeowner seeking a deduction for 68,000 gallons of water. This deduction was almost twice the amount of water used for a single family home. Gary believes it is time to take a long hard look at this program. He also had Christine find out how other communities/towns work with a meter

deduction program. Christine stated that Grafton eliminated the program six years ago, Sutton has no meter program, Oxford only has a few metered properties. Lisa Allain also stated that Westborough has no meter program because they do not allow irrigation systems. This program and its changes will be discussed further by the board.

Christine presented the board with meter packets to show the board some of the challenges the clerks have when receiving the forms and calculating the correct deductions.

Gary has asked the board to come up with suggestions on what the outcome of this program should be as he is open to suggestions at this time.

Brian Falk sent information to Gary about how to capture betterments for properties. Gary Nelson is looking to make changes to the way these fees are captured.

Gary then asked Keith Caruso for input on the downtown project and whether the sewer work has begun. Keith stated that only the prep work has begun.

ITEM FIVE – ABATEMENT REQUESTS:

14 A-B Elm St – Allan & Linda Ackerman – They did not receive their credit for the meter deduction looking to have a 2,000 gallon deduction taken off bill. Bill is \$602.70 Abatement Requested \$24.60 Abated to: \$578.10

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to abate Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor.

45 Hemlock Drive –Scott & Christine Lindgren – Should not have received a sewer bill. Did not tie into the sewer system until December 2019. Bill is \$319.80 Abatement Requested \$319.80 Abated to: \$2.82.

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to abate Happy Erickson made the motion, Lisa Allain seconded the motion all were in favor of abatement.

2 Shore Terrace – Dan Rizika – Should not have received a sewer bill. Water was shut off in May 2019 by Aquarion. Bill is \$701.10 Abatement Requested \$701.10 Abated to: \$14.41.

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to abate Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor.

7-9 Latti Farm Road - Tonuse –Should have been billed for 28,000 gallons and not 100,000 gallons, this was a clerical error. Bill is \$1,230.00 Abatement Requested: \$885.56 Abated to: \$344.44.

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to abate Happy Erickson made the motion and Lisa Allain seconded the motion all were in favor.

2 Montgomery Drive-Town owned property –Should have been made inactive. Bill is \$319.80 Abatement Requested: \$319.80 Abated to: \$5.27.

Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to abate Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor.

ITEM SIX – BETTERMENTS:

Nothing at this time.

ITEM SEVEN– SEWER EXTENSIONS/CONNECTIONS:

Gary Nelson asked Christine if Frank had the chance to review the permits. Christine informed the Chairman that the permits were sent to Frank but that he did not respond. Gary made a motion to approve the connection permits below contingent upon review of the sewer personnel. Chairman Nelson stated that if the sewer personnel had any objections to the connection permits below than those objections would be grounds for a denial of permit.

9 Scott Street – MidState Sewerage – Looking to relocate lateral and tie into town sewer. This was denied.

7 Ackerman Rd – MidState Sewerage – Connection granted

9 Maplewood Rd – MidState Sewerage – Connection granted

10 Maplewood Rd – MidState Sewerage – Connection granted

ITEM EIGHT– ADDITIONAL TOPICS

Chairman Nelson updated the board on Clearview project agreed to put meters in and the board voted to pick up the tab, Stratford Village did repairs on Burbank Street, problem solved and completed, and Elm Court Pump Station just waiting on supplies to come in.

Chairman Nelson will meet with Frank Occhipinti about Sutton's flows to get their meters in sink again.

Chairman Nelson asked Keith Caruso about the budget was approved as submitted Keith Caruso stated that they are still having on going meeting about the budgets.

ITEM NINE – FUTURE MEETING DATE


The next regular scheduled meetings will be held July 28, 2020 and August 11, 2020. Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted and/or cancelled. Time change of the meetings will be 4:30 pm unless otherwise posted.

ITEM TEN – ADJOURNMENT

At 4:44 p.m. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn, Happy Erickson made the motion to adjourn and Lisa Allain seconded the motion all were in favor. Roll Call Vote: Happy Erickson; yes, Lisa Allain; yes, Gary Nelson; yes.

(More information about this meeting can be found on the VOD Millbury Public Access channel)

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Billington
Clerk-Sewer Department



Gary Nelson



Happy Erickson



Lisa Allain