

**Town of Millbury
Minutes of
Sewer Commission Meeting
August 25, 2020**

TOWN OF MILLBURY
2020 SEP -9 AM 9:19
MILLBURY, MASS

ZOOM MEETING ID# 898 5506 7551

“Welcome to the August 25, 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 Director and Andrew Vanni-Finance Director. Zoom attendee Christopher Biondi – 10 Juniper Drive.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gary Nelson called to order the meeting at 4:30 pm.

ITEM TWO

Set Sewer Rate for FY 2021. Chairman Nelson spoke about why there would be an increase for the sewer rate to go from \$12.30 to \$12.91. The rate increase will cover the I & I study and salaries down at the Sewer Plant until Jamie Piscitelli retires. The board voted all in favor of changing the rate to \$12.91 for FY 2021. Happy Erickson made the motion Lisa Allain seconded the motion. Lisa Allain Yes, Happy Erickson Yes, Gary Nelson Yes.

The Board was also informed that the Sutton Sewer Bill from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 was ready to be signed and the Board voted to accept the Sutton sewer bill. The bill is for \$74,535.59. Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion all in favor. Lisa Allain Yes, Happy Erickson Yes, Gary Nelson Yes. Finance Director Andrew Vanni said thank you.

ITEM THREE - INVOICES:

Nothing at this time.

ITEM FOUR – MINUTES:

None at this time.

ITEM FIVE – OPERATIONS:

Chairman Nelson asked Keith Caruso if there is anything to report he said it is all quiet right now and there are no changes on the downtown project. Chairman Nelson stated that he will talk with Frank Occhipinti this week.

Chairman Nelson informed the board that the Elm Court pump station project will start on September 7, 2020. There will be a meeting on September 4, 2020 at 10:00 am to discuss the project. Should be completed by January 22, 2021. This project will take 4 months.

ITEM SIX – ABATEMENT REQUEST:

32 Autumn Gate Circle – was billed in Commitment 44 under property address of 118 Grafton Street this address was later changed to 32 Autumn Gate Circle and will billed again.

Bill: \$5,000.00 Abatement Amount: \$5,000.00 Abated to: 0

Happy Erickson made the motion to accept abatement Lisa Allain seconded the motion:

Lisa Allain Yes, Happy Erickson Yes, Gary Nelson Yes.

408 Greenwood Street – Was Billed in Commitment 42 and Commitment 44.

Bill: \$5,000.00 Abatement Amount: \$5,000.00 Abated to: 0

Lisa Allain made the motion to accept abatement Happy Erickson seconded the motion.

Lisa Allain Yes, Happy Erickson Yes, Gary Nelson Yes.

ITEM SEVEN– BETTERMENTS:

None at this time.

ITEM EIGHT– SEWER EXTENSIONS/CONNECTIONS:

Nothing at this time

ITEM NINE: ADDITIONAL TOPICS:

Discuss and possible vote to discontinue Meter Deduction Program.

Chairman Nelson asked everyone if they received the packet of information provided by Amy Paquette-Riordan Chairman Nelson stated that Amy did a great job putting the packet together. The board members stated that they did receive the information. Chairman Nelson stated that there have been problems with the program. This has been discussed in the past to get rid of the program. Chairman Nelson understands the amount of work that goes with the program there is approximately 400 users. Chairman Nelson understands the blowback that not having the program will cause. He thinks the biggest issue would be that the water does not go into the town sewer systems. Most of the other towns do not have the meter deduction program anymore. Chairman Nelson will contact other towns to see why they did away with the program and what was the result from the residents of town. Chairman Nelson would like everyone to think about this and see what needs to be complete. Chairman Nelson also would like to contact town counsel to see about this. Lisa Allain asked if we should go to one lump sum instead of meter reads. This is why he would like the board think about this, if there can be something done.

Andrew Vanni stated that this should be charged like any other town just charge the residents what they use do away with the meter deduction program. No other town has this program anymore.

Chris Biondi of 10 Juniper Drive was on the call talking about just starting the program, he has not had any deductions as of yet because he just signed on. He just spent \$700.00 to get on this program. Chris thinks that this should only be used for the winter months not the summer months because of the water bans. Chairman Nelson stated that this a good possibility for only using the meter deductions for the winter months and not the summer months. Andrew Vanni asked where the second meter was installed and what it is for. Chris stated that it is for his garden and washing cars, cleaning home, lawn maintenance.

Chairman Nelson stated that they will discuss this further until the board really thinks about this before they make the decision. Chairman Nelson stated that this is the big draw back for the water not going into the town sewer system. Chairman Nelson stated that this will be tabled until the next meeting. All in agreement to table to next meeting will be September 8, 2020.

ITEM TEN – FUTURE MEETING DATE

The next regular scheduled meetings will be held on September 8, 2020 and September 22, 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 ELEVEN – ADJOURNMENT

At 4:55 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