

**Town of Millbury  
Minutes of  
Sewer Commission Meeting  
October 8, 2019**

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MILLBURY, MASS.

Present: Gary Nelson, Happy Erickson, Lisa Allain, Keith Caruso DPW Supervisor, Frank Stachura – Sewer Plant Operator and Christine Billington Clerk

Guest Speakers: Resident – Richard Patterson – 16 Cedar Avenue  
Resident – Francis R. Mercadante – 129 Park Hill Avenue

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gary Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Chairman Nelson asked the board if they have read everything in their packets and it was stated yes they are all set.

**ITEM TWO – PUBLIC ATTENDEES:**

Mr. Richard Patterson will be speaking first. Gary asked if everyone had a chance to read Mr. Patterson's note. Chairman Nelson stated that he looked at all the information and asked Mr. Patterson what was going on with Aquarion. Mr. Patterson said he spoke with Aquarion and he came to his home and said he had a leak in his toilet and Mr. Patterson had this fixed. So on the next bill from Aquarion he had an abatement from them, but the sewer bill he received from that quarter was for \$916. Mr. Patterson tried to get ahold of Aquarion to get him something in writing and Aquarion said that he would have had to use 3 times the amount of water in order to give the abatement to him. Mr. Patterson said he is not happy with the way Aquarion and the Sewer Department talk to one another. Mr. Patterson is waiting for a response from Aquarion on whether he is going to get anything from them. Mr. Patterson stated that he has paid his bill. Chairman Nelson stated that we can wait and see what happens with Aquarion. Chairman Nelson stated that the board will look at past bills and see that there was a change in the bills, there was a drastic increase in the bills. He is looking for a deduction on his sewer bill. Chairman Nelson stated to Mr. Patterson even if Aquarion does not give him an abatement that the board can look into his past bills and possibly give him an abatement. Mr. Patterson has a leak and did not realize he had one. Chairman Nelson stated that he looked back to 2012 and his bill has increased. Once Aquarion gets back to him even if Aquarion does not give him a rebate that does not mean the board will not give you a rebate. Chairman Nelson stated that the board will work with the users on if their bill is so high. Lisa stated that when you submit your information to Christine then also submit a copy of the plumbers install. Mr. Patterson will give the information to Christine for the next meeting. The board thanked Mr. Patterson for coming into the meeting.

Francis Mercadante is questioning the FY on the bill. Why is the rate different from FY 2019 to FY 2020? How is the town able to change this rate? Chairman Nelson stated that the bills are always six months in the rear. Chairman Nelson stated that it covers the budget for the year. It's because we are always six months in the rear. January – June it has always been billed this since the billing started. Chairman Nelson talked about the budget and the flows and how it is billed. Mr. Mercadante stated that when you guys set a rate that it should be for a year. Chairman Nelson stated in order to meet out 2020 budget that's why the rate changed for 2020 bills. Mr. Mercadante stated unless you have a state law that says you can change this fiscal rate you are in violation. Christine explained how the bills work and the billing cycles work. Because the fiscal year has closed for 2020. Chairman Nelson stated that he will speak to Town Counsel on this and find out if it is correct or not. Mr. Mercadante does not understand how you can change a fiscal year if you only have one charge of bills. Lisa stated that sewer expended from one year to the next. Because if we billed for more than two times a year it would be different. Mr. Mercadante tried to say that the two bills did not have the same rate for FY2019 but they did.

Mr. Mercadante said that he will take this further if he has too. Chairman Nelson stated again that he will check with Town Counsel seeing if they are doing the rates legally and we will get back to Mr. Mercadante on the answer.

Mr. Mercadante asked if the bills are being outsourced and why. They are being sent out by Kelley and Ryan why are the town's people not sending out the bills. Mr. Mercadante wants to know why they are outsourcing the bills. Chairman Nelson stated that there is not enough help in the office for the office to send out the bills again. Mr. Mercadante asked why the bills are being sent to Reading. He was told that it's because that's where the bank is. Mr. Mercadante stated that if the bills are being outsourced that you will be paying a fee and that could be saved if the town's people do this in house. Chairman Nelson stated that the bills should be going out quarterly in September 2020. The board thanked Mr. Mercadante for coming into the meeting. Discussing took place stating that this has been done since Chairman Nelson has been there.

### **ITEM THREE – INVOICES**

Miscellaneous invoices reviewed, approved and signed by Sewer Commission.

Chairman Nelson stated that while they are signing the invoices that he would update the board on the meeting that they had with National Grid. It looks like they are going to sign off on everything for the Elm Court pump Station. Should take three to four weeks to finalize the project. Ray Willis from onsite will go ahead with the notice of intent for the Warren Street pump station that will take three to four weeks also and at that point when both come back then the board can decide on which one to do first.

### **ITEM FOUR – MINUTES**

Approved the Minutes from September 24, 2019 Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to approve the minutes Happy Erickson made the motion to approve as written, Lisa Allain seconded the motion to approve the minutes all were in favor to approve minutes.

### **ITEM FIVE - OPERATIONS:**

### **ITEM SIX – ABATEMENT REQUESTS:**

140 Main Street – Mark Martocci – Chairman Nelson asked for a motion Lisa Allain made the motion to approve Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor of the abatement.

47 Tiffany Circle – Heather Levicki –Chairman Nelson asked for a motion Happy Erickson made the motion to approve and Lisa Allain seconded the motion all were in favor of the abatement.

143 Park Hill Avenue – George Levoy – Chairman Nelson asked for a motion Lisa Allain made the motion to approve Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor of the abatement.

30 A-C High Street– James Marran – Chairman Nelson asked for a motion Happy Erickson made the motion to approve and Lisa Allain seconded the motion all were in favor of the abatement.

### **ITEM SEVEN – BETTERMENTS:**

Nothing at this time

**ITEM EIGHT – SEWER EXTENSIONS/CONNECTIONS:**

Chairman Nelson asked Frank if he and Jamie had a chance to inspect these and Frank stated that yes that did inspect these connections. Lisa Allain asked Frank if they fixed everything up there and Frank stated no they have not. Lisa Allain asked about the sewer main if they were good and Frank said no. Lisa Allain stated that then why are we approving connections. Frank stated that when Keith Nastasia was here he did not think anything was fixed. Chairman Nelson asked what needed to be done. Lisa stated that she thought there was junk in the manholes, inverts need to be fixed and the connection to Burbank Street also needs to be fixed. Chairman Nelson asked if there was a list anywhere of the things that need to be complete. Frank stated that it was Keith Nastasia and Stantec that had the information. Chairman Nelson asked to get ahold of the list to see what needs to be done. Lisa stated that she would not give them any connections until everything is fixed. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to deny all of the sewer connections for Stratford Village, Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion for denial. Lisa stated if there is no record of the work being TV'd do we want that done. Frank stated that eventually it will need to be done but it would be the building inspector that would know that. Keith stated that if the town were to take over then it that would have to be completed before the town takes over the road. Keith stated that this is a private development that the town will not touch. Chairman Nelson asked if Brierly pond was taken care of by the town and Keith stated that it is all private that town does not touch the plowing or sanding or salting. Frank stated that he thinks Stantec oversaw the project up there. Chairman Nelson asked Frank to contact the engineers up at Stratford Village and we may need to set up another meeting with the board.

Keith asked Frank if he knew if it was going to become a public road and Frank stated that he thought he heard something. Lisa stated that the board is the eyes for the town and she thinks the town should have some say into the flow going into the town sewer. Chairman Nelson asked Frank to speak to Laurie Connors and find out who the engineers are up there.

16 Stratford Village Drive – Carl Leach – Keystone Development – Denied  
18 Stratford Village Drive – Carl Leach – Keystone Development - Denied  
20 Stratford Village Drive – Carl Leach – Keystone Development - Denied  
22 Stratford Village Drive – Carl Leach – Keystone Development - Denied  
24 Stratford Village Drive - Carl Leach – Keystone Development – Denied

The clerk stated that these three were not on tonight's agenda as they just came into the office today.

18 Ward Avenue – MidState Sewerage – Cade Clark – Chairman Nelson asked for a motion, Happy Erickson made the motion and Lisa Allain seconded the motion all were in favor of approval.

Frank stated that there was a stub there and it looks good.

351 Greenwood Street – MidState Sewerage – Steven Tatro – Chairman Nelson asked for a motion, Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor of approval.

Frank stated that there was a lateral there and it looks good. Lisa asked about the certificate number and we do have this in the office. Frank stated that every once and a while they split something.

22 Park Hill Avenue – SPB Contracting, Inc. – Kamel Kamel - Chairman Nelson asked for a motion, Lisa Allain made the motion and Happy Erickson seconded the motion all were in favor of approval.



## **ITEM NINE– ADDITIONAL TOPICS**

Chairman Nelson asked if everyone has seen the packet from Worcester on the Clearview paperwork. Chairman Nelson stated that it took two months for Worcester to get back to the board. There will be no upfront costs for them to tie into Worcester. Chairman Nelson stated that the rate would be 4.15 per hundredth cubic feet. It would be much cheaper to send that flow to Worcester than to us. Chairman Nelson stated that we would have to come up with a inter municipal agreement. Chairman Nelson stated that Town Counsel would have to draw up an agreement. Chairman Nelson stated that the only issue would be the billing of the users. Lisa Allain asked if it would be all of Clearview users and Chairman Nelson stated that it would be all users north of the pike bridge and all of Clearview users and the Industrial Park would also go to Worcester. Chairman Nelson stated that the City of Worcester would bill us for the flow. The users would pay whatever the going rate is. Chairman Nelson stated that on 50,000 it will be around \$400.00 each quarter we will lose money every quarter because we will need to pay Worcester. Chairman Nelson will have Town Counsel draft up an agreement.

Chairman Nelson stated that what we need to do now is get ahold of the people from Clearview and have Frank Occhipinti of Weston and Sampson approve a plan that will be accepted by the board because what was submitted to Frank before he was not happy with it. Mr. Occhipinti will have to approve a plan that the board will accept. Chairman Nelson stated that it looks like it could be a done deal. Chairman Nelson will reach out to Clearview and have them attend a meeting.

Chairman Nelson spoke about Autumn Gates and he said he spoke with Town Counsel and they said to wait until the May town meeting until they approve the streets. Chairman Nelson suggested to Town Counsel that they have a maintenance contract set up with Gallo to take care of the maintenance of the pump station at a cost. Chairman Nelson talked to Weston and Sampson and they said they would go into a maintenance contract with them too. Weston and Sampson also stated that they can go to the pump station and do a complete check of the system to make sure everything is ok but it would be at a cost. Lisa Allain asked if Gallo had already done this checking and Frank stated that this was done a while ago. Nothing recent. Chairman Nelson stated that the easiest way for the board is to deny taking over the maintenance and let the Gallo's keep getting the alarm calls. Lisa Allain asked if Town Counsel knows what the Gallo's want the town to do and Chairman Nelson stated that he does because he is dealing with Laurie Connors the Town Planner also about Autumn Gates. Chairman Nelson stated it would be nice to know how many calls are coming into the alarm company and Frank stated that he can guarantee that there are calls coming in, Chairman Nelson said he was going to send Mr. Gallo the options, but he held off until after this meeting to do so the board could discuss this and make a decision on what to do. Happy Erickson asked Frank what he thought about the project and Frank stated he would hold off doing anything and have the Gallo's hire an outside company to take care of the alarm calls that come in. Keith stated also that he would wait until May Town Meeting and see what happens then, and then the board can have it inspected to make sure everything is complete. They need to vote on accepting the street at the Town Meeting. Happy Erickson stated that he would go along with what the board decided to do and Lisa Allain said it was fine with her also. Chairman Nelson asked Frank if he had a chance to go down and look at the station and Frank stated that he did and it was not clean, however they did fix the electrical box on the outside of the building. Chairman Nelson asked Frank if there was a street light at the property and Frank stated that there was one down the street 30 or 40 feet away but not at the station. Chairman Nelson thought they were supposed to have one at the station and Frank stated that he did not see the original plans. Chairman Nelson asked what happens when you have to go into a station and Frank stated that most of the stations have lights to turn on automatically but if they do not have lights then they have the equipment with them. We will not be giving anyone's name to put on the alarm company's call list. Chairman Nelson stated that they will wait till May Town Meeting and see what happens then.

Chairman Nelson spoke about the three articles that will be on the Special Town Meeting Warrant 1<sup>st</sup> article will be to transfer from the stabilization fund of \$100,000.00 to install sewer lines for the Tip project on McCracken Road. 2<sup>nd</sup> article will be to transfer from the stabilization fund \$20,550.00 for a part time person from January – June at the sewer plant and the 3<sup>rd</sup> article will be for \$306,700.00 that was left out of the budget of FY 2020, 2.2 million was supposed to be the budget for FY2020. This happened because previous management put the wrong budget on the warrant for last year's town meeting. These articles will be on before the school article.

Chairman Nelson spoke about meeting with Denise Marlborough and Andrew Vanni about setting up the quarterly billing.

Chairman Nelson also spoke about getting back to Sutton on the refund that they are looking for and Frank asked Chairman Nelson if we were all set with the meters and Frank stated yes the meters look good but they are having issues with getting the readings through e-mail. Frank stated he is waiting to hear back from Frank Occhipinti on getting this issue fixed. Chairman Nelson asked Frank how they are keeping track of the flows now and Frank stated they are doing everything manually. Frank stated that it was a programming thing, just waiting to get fixed. Some on the flows match which is good. Someone came to make an adjustment at the plant and wiped everything out.

Chairman Nelson stated that he met with Andrew Vanni and our finances look good. Chairman Nelson also asked Frank for a capital plan, Chairman Nelson stated that before you wanted to make everything uniform and Frank stated that he is working on it.

Frank asked Chairman Nelson about the quote for the tree. Chairman Nelson spoke to the board letting them know that there was a tree that needs to come down which is on an easement which the easement abuts four properties and one of the properties has an eight foot fence. Frank stated that they have to look into more tree companies that have a crane because that is the only way to take this tree down. Frank stated that when the original easement was down the tree was there and they should have taken it down then, because the roots were cut and now the tree is dead and needs to come down. Chairman Nelson asked if anyone new of any tree companies we could get quotes from and Frank stated that he contacted a few more and we were just waiting for the quotes to come in. Lisa Allain asked if the neighbors were good with taking the tree down and Frank stated that they could not wait for the tree to come down. Chairman Nelson stated that when the other quotes come in that Keith and Frank can decided who they want to have the tree taken down and just have it done.

#### **ITEM TEN – FUTURE MEETING DATE**

The next regular scheduled meetings will be held October 22, 2019 and November 12, 2019. Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted and/or cancelled.

#### **ITEM ELEVEN – ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:00 p.m. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn, Happy Erickson made the motion to adjourn Lisa seconded the motion all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Billington  
Clerk-Sewer Department

  
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Gary Nelson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Happy Erickson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Allain