

**Town of Millbury  
Minutes of  
Sewer Commission Meeting  
January 28, 2020**

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2020 FEB 12 AM 8:29  
MILLBURY, MASS.

Present: Gary Nelson, Lisa Allain, Keith Caruso DPW Supervisor, Frank Stachura – Sewer Plant Operator and Christine Billington Clerk, guests present David Perkins.

Happy Erickson was absent

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gary Nelson called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

**ITEM TWO – PUBLIC ATTENDEES:**

David Perkins is in attendance and asked Chairman Nelson what the verdict is and Chairman Nelson is explaining to Mr. Perkins that Benton Street is a private street and there are no designs in place for the sewer line that is on the street. The Town does not want to have Mr. Perkins tie in because if there is a blockage in the pipe then who will be responsible to fix this issue. Mr. Perkins has no information from the neighbors allowing him to tie into the existing line on the street since it is private. Chairman Nelson asked Mr. Perkins to have an agreement drawn up with the neighbors stating that it is ok for him to tie into the existing sewer line and then we will need drawings on tying into the sewer. Mr. Perkins is looking to tie in 2 homes instead of one if he needs to bring the sewer down the street. Mr. Perkins and Frank were talking about tying into the existing sewer drain. Frank is against 2 lines going into the manhole. Lisa stated that she looked up the deeds to see if there was anything on them and there was nothing on the deeds about an easement. Lisa Allain stated that she would like a maintenance agreement to go along with lines. Chairman Nelson stated that if the answer is no from the residents then the board will need plans to tie in the 2 properties. Chairman Nelson stated that the board will wait to see what happens with Mr. Perkins on the residents. Frank asked if that can be turned over to the town after it is complete and Chairman Nelson stated that it is a private street. Frank does not think that Benton Street was ever supposed to have sewer on it. Chairman Nelson asked if the town was responsible if anything happens in the street, Frank stated that if anything happens in the street then it's the homeowner responsibility. Mr. Perkins does not want to waste his money to design the sewer system and not be able to put it in. Lisa stated that there would need to be maintenance agreements form all the properties. Chairman Nelson wants to discuss this further in the meeting to see what they can come up with. Chairman Nelson wants to wait to do anything until the next meeting.

### **ITEM THREE – INVOICES**

Miscellaneous invoices reviewed, approved and signed by Sewer Commission.

### **ITEM FOUR – CORRESPONDENTS:**

Letter from Gail Cone – 3 Chunis Avenue stating that the home has been under renovation for the past 4 years and that they have not been using water on the property and asked if the sewer account can be made inactive until the home is completed with the renovations. Chairman Nelson asked if this property is looking for an abatement and Christine stated no she is not looking for an abatement. Lisa asked if she has water and it is not on as the well pump is broken. If the water is off then yes make inactive but if not then they are using the water then it needs to stay active.

E-mail from Laurie Connors Town Planner about allocation options from Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District.

Chairman Nelson spoke about the email from Upper Blackstone stating that the flows went way up. Chairman Nelson asked Frank if there was a lot of water this year and Frank stated yes. Chairman Nelson would like to find out where all the water is coming from. If it's all I & I then there is a problem. The school use a lot of water but it's not enough to worry about. Frank stated that there has been a lot or rain this winter, but if the ground was frozen it would be different the ground would not be soaking up all that water. Chairman Nelson stated about doing the next phases of the I & I was going to be expensive.

### **ITEM FIVE - MINUTES:**

No minutes were approved at this meeting

### **ITEM SIX – OPERATIONS:**

Plant is running good right now. Chairman Nelson asked about the betterments on when they will be going out and he stated that there should be a lot going out. Christine is checking with Denise on sending out the betterments.

**ITEM SEVEN – ABATEMENT REQUESTS:**

15 Elmwood Terrace – Dennis LaPierre – is looking to see if the board would credit his account from six months prior bill since the account has been wrong since 2016. Lisa stated that it is the fair thing to do. Chairman Nelson asked Christine if Denise was ok with this and Christine stated Denise said it was up to the board on what they want to do.

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

**ITEM EIGHT – BETTERMENTS:**

Nothing at this time.

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

Nothing at the time.

**ITEM TEN– ADDITIONAL TOPICS**

Chairman Nelson talked about the Capital Plan and is looking for input from Frank on anything he needs to add to this.

Chairman Nelson asked Keith if he heard anything from the Finance Committee about the first meeting and Keith stated he thinks it will be on a Saturday. Chairman Nelson also asked Keith to go over the budget with him.

Chairman Nelson asked Lisa Allain is she had a chance to look at the rules and regulations and she stated no Chairman Nelson stated that if changes need to be made now is the time and Lisa asked about changing the connection fees and Chairman Nelson stated that yes it is the time to go over this information. We can check with other towns to see what they are doing. Lisa stated that her town you cannot get a permit without paying the betterment fee. The building inspector works with the sewer department on making sure fees are collected. Lisa asked if someone is building a single family home if we see the plans and it was stated no. Only if they tie into the town sewer then they will need to pull a permit.

Chairman Nelson stated that the last meeting we had with Gallo he would like Weston and Sampson to go look at over the pump station before it is taken over. Mr. Gallo said at the last meeting that he will not do anything more to the pump station. Chairman Nelson stated that he has been there one time and it was a mess.

Keith Caruso spoke about the TIP project that the design phase is 75% completed and on the design is the sewer for McCracken Road. Chairman Nelson would like to meet with Mr. Caruso to discuss this further. Chairman Nelson stated that they will need to see which way the flow is going to go.


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

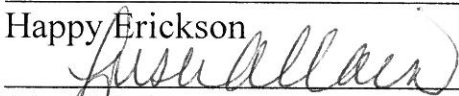
The next regular scheduled meetings will be held February 11, 2020 @4:30 p.m. and February 25, 2020 @5:00 p.m. Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month unless otherwise posted and/or cancelled.

#### **ITEM ELEVEN – ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:50 p.m. Chairman Nelson asked for a motion to adjourn, Lisa made the motion to adjourn all were in favor to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Billington  
Clerk-Sewer Department

  
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Gary Nelson

Happy Erickson  
  
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Lisa Allain