

Advisory Board of Public Works, February 2, 2021, 5:01

Item 1 | Call to Order: Mr. Tarr called meeting to order at 5:01. Attendance: Christopher Tarr, Maria Palomino, Elena Proakis, Director Joe Conway, Business Manager Ann Waitt, and Anna Amatucci

Ms. Waitt introduced a few speakers for the meeting tonight, two of which are water disputes.

Item 2 | Approve Minutes from December Meeting: Mr. Tarr made a motion to approve minutes from last meeting. Ms. Palomino seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

Item 3 | Public Participation

- Dan Licata of 2 Longbow Rd. speaking about irrigation meters. Mr. Licata would like to know when and if the DPW will be considering second meters for residents. Mr. Conway mentioned how since 1992, this topic has been evaluated by the Board of Public Works, the Board of Selectmen or the Town Administrator fourteen times, with the last discussion in 2017. At that time, it was noted that this topic would be revisited in 2022. Advisory Board will most likely make a presentation and make a recommendation to the Council, and the policy would be subject to a vote.

- 331 Albion St. #1 – Puthucode Sriram spoke about his high water bill. It is a rented unit with one person living at the home. The July bill was about five times the normal summer usage. He hired a plumber and found no visible leaks. Mr. Sriram also mentioned the Oct. bill was lower in usage, since irrigation was closed Oct. 14th. Ms. Proakis asked when tenant moved in and Mr. Sriram said almost a year ago (8/2020). There are six units and three irrigation meters, therefore each unit splits their bill with another unit. Ms. Waitt explained there is 331 Unit A and B, 333 Unit A and B, 335 Unit A and B, and 339 Unit A and B. Ms. Waitt went to the property and said the meter has a sensor on it. Ms. Proakis suggested if there could be a problem with the sensor and it was going off intermittently during the night. Ms. Waitt mentioned there is a possibility the sensor went off since it was a very dry summer. Ms. Palomino questioned how Mr. Sriram's unit intersects with other units, since they're usage is very high also. Mr. Tarr asked how many people could access irrigation controller to which Mr. Sriram replied only the landscaper, but it's also been outsourced. Ms. Proakis suggested the meter be tested for any possible issues, and if there's an issue the Board can speak to an abatement. If there's no issue, the next step could be to monitor the usage monthly until irrigation is turned back on. Ms. Proakis made a motion to test meter for 331 Albion St. to determine if it's working properly and the administration provide a monthly update on water use for that address for as many months as required to determine a trend/issue. Mr. Tarr seconded the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

- 44 Oak St. – Dave McCall spoke to his high water bill. The usage was about six times higher than normal. Mr. McCall mentioned they do not have a sprinkler system or a pool. Per Ms. Waitt's suggestion, Mr. McCall took readings for two to three nights in a row and meter did not move. Due to the meter being old, a new meter was put in on Oct. 5. Mr. McCall seeded a 12 X 12 patch of grass for a short period of time, approximately 10 minutes a day with nozzle, not hose. Ms. Palomino asked if hose was pressure triggered, and Mr. McCall said yes, it's a lever and he made sure it was tightly closed after watering. Ms. Proakis suggested

one of three things that could have caused a spike in usage. Something was wrong with the old meter, hose running, or something interior happened like a toilet running unnoticed, resolving on its own. Ms. Proakis asked if all old meters have been replaced to which Mr. Conway responded there are about 100 meter left to be replaced. Contact is made with resident every quarter to replace meter via a blue card and/or telephone call. Ms. Proakis asked Mr. McCall why he has not responded to getting the meter replaced. Mr. McCall is not a fan of the smart meter; therefore, he did not want it replaced. Ms. Waitt mentioned old meters usually slow down or get clogged up, and she has never come across an old mater that has sped up. Ms. Proakis agreed with Ms. Waitt's statement. Mr. Tarr asked if Mr. McCall tested the toilets, to which he said yes. Ms. Proakis made a motion to have Ms. Waitt look at last manual read and wait for next quarter's bill, then taking a vote on whether or not to give an abatement. Ms. Palomino seconded the motion. Motion carries 3-0.

Item 4 | Executive Session: Mr. Tarr made a motion to move the meeting to the Executive session. Ms. Proakis seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

Item 5 | Board Update: None

Item 6 | Operational Updates: Mr. Conway mentioned getting ready for budget season, and DPW being heavily involved in the vaccine clinic. Given the snow storm later in the evening of the clinic, it was great that all the vaccinations were given out.

Item 7 | Other Business: None

Item 8 | Next Meeting: Motion made to schedule next meeting for Monday 3/1 at 5:30. Ms. Palomino seconded. Motion carries 3-0.

Item 9 | Adjournment: Mr. Tarr made a motion to move the meeting to the Executive session. Ms. Proakis seconded. Motion carries 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.