

## DPW MEETING

November 3, 2011

### Present:

DPW Board Members Greg Rice, Lewis Lunn, Fred Farmer, John Dee, Water/Sewer Superintendent Laurie Stevens, P.E. and DPW Director Kenneth Kalinowski, P.E.

### Call to Order:

Chairman Greg Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Abatements:

- **55 Nashua Road - \$874.64 Water**
- **40 Brookline Street - \$77.98 Water \$120.62 Sewer**  
Meter Reading corrections. Fred Farmer made a motion to grant the requested abatements. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously**

### DPW

Storm Update - DPW Director Ken Kalinowski updated the Board on the recent storm which dropped upwards of 12" to 14" of heavy wet snow. Crews were called in late Sat afternoon to plow and sand. These operations were hampered by the hundreds of trees and limbs falling and downing power wires throughout town. This resulted in numerous road closures and a widespread loss of power – including the Highway garage which has no emergency backup generator. All DPW crews were working 24/7 to ensure that their operations were running as best as possible. A slow response from National Grid forced the water and sewer divisions to utilize backup generators for producing water as well as pumping and treating sewage. As late as Wed morning the highway department did not have power restored and by mid afternoon, 100% of the WWTP was still on backup power as were 80% of the public water supply wells. The WWTP and Jersey St wells were back on the grid late Wed., but there were still a dozen road closures scattered in town. As of this afternoon, the roads were opened but the Bemis Well site, The Brookline Street pump station and the Mason Street tank were still on emergency power. The Governor's office has declared a state of emergency and it is still in effect. There has not been any discussion or notice of whether or not there will be any financial aid available to communities adversely impacted by this storm, but I have instructed all division heads to track storm-related expenses just in case financial relief is made available. While we are still a ways from having compiled a total cost associated with this storm, I am aware of several significant expenditures such as the propane for the water and sewer backup generators for 3+ days, the cost of a new PLC to run the SCADA system at the WWTP and a couple of equipment repairs to a plow and loader.

Notwithstanding the inept response and performance of National Grid during the initial 3 days of the storm, I think that this event serves to underscore several key DPW issues; most notably the growing need to restore the Highway Dept staffing levels from the current crew of 7 to the previous compliment of 9. While the snow removal operations were difficult, the cleanup will prove to be extremely time consuming and once again detract equipment and manpower from regularly scheduled tasks that are of equal or possibly greater importance at this time of year.

I also think that the town will need to determine a funding source for an emergency backup generator for the Highway barn and acquire such a unit in the very near future. I have instructed the Highway staff to evaluate their power needs and to determine the parameters for an adequate power generation unit to supply the facility. Once again, I want to publicly express my thanks and gratitude to all of the DPW staff who worked (and are still working) tirelessly to clean up after this devastating storm event. The town is truly lucky to have such talented and dedicated individuals in their service.

**Working Session – water / sewer rates.** The DPW Board will be asked to set the water and sewer rates for 2012 at a public hearing in December. Given all the discussions about the status of the enterprise funds – and what that may entail for possible rate increases – Superintendent Laurie Stevens and DPW Director Ken Kalinowski thought it would be a good idea to sit with the Board before the public hearing and explain the situation and to work thorough a few scenarios to assist the Board with making an informed decision as regards to setting the 2012 rates. Laurie has devised a rate tool that will allow us to make assumptions, input and adjust several variables and then work with a variety of rate adjustments to arrive at a plausible rate schedule to meet the anticipated financial needs of the enterprise funds for the next several years. Ken and Laurie are still working with the Town Accountant, the towns auditing firm, and the Treasurer/Collector to finalize certain numbers, and therefore the information that is presented tonight may be slightly different from what is presented at the proposed rate structure hearing in December.

**Annual Fall Town Meeting.** A reminder that the Fall STM will take place on Monday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Nissittissit Middle School Auditorium. There is one DPW related article that would allow the expenditure of ‘one-time’ funds from the state to be used to procure 2 sander bodies. The Chairman of the Board offered to read the motion at the TM and the highway superintendent will be prepared to speak to this article at the FSTM

**Next Meeting Date** will be November 17, 2011

Fred Farmer made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Lewis Lunn seconded the motion.  
**The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Knox  
DPW Administrative Assistant