

**Water - Sewer Commission Meeting  
January 21, 2020**

Members Present: David Berger, Leo Collette, Charles Packard, George Cornwall, Steve Nims and Robert Mc Donald prospective new member.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6 pm

Motion to accept minutes of Nov 13, 2019 made by Collette seconded by Cornwall.

Motion to accept 1/21/2020 agenda made by Collette seconded by Packard

Both Votes unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS**

Superintendent Steve Nims reported to the commissioners that the City of Gardner sent the Sewer department a bill for the "Removal of grease" from the Summit Pump Station at the end of the Ashburnham Sewer line to Gardner in the amount of 1806.75. Steve intends to follow up and find out why they think we should pay for this expense. This is a charge never received previously.

Steve also reported that the Commission and the Water Treatment facility was sent its second award for excellence in fluoride monitoring.

The developers at Bray Ave and their attorneys have proposed that the payments made by the former group in 1995 for 4 sewer connections will be honored. This leaves them responsible for 5 lots @ 7500 each for Sewer connections and 9 Lots of 2500 each for water connections. Said funds to be deposited in the respective Water and Sewer enterprise funds.

Review of Robert McDonald for membership on the Water / Sewer commission follows:

Mr. McDonald has Class 2T Water License and a Class 3 Sewage Distribution License and a CDL driver's license. He has worked as systems operator in the Town of Montague and currently in Templeton.

Discussion followed in regards to his knowledge of the town of Templeton's connection to the Gardner sewage system. They send 400,000 gpd of sewage to Gardner. We are at about 100,000 per day and both towns will be responsible to pay a percentage of Gardner's coming upgrade to their system. The Ashburnham Town Manager and DPW Superintendents' contention is that we have been paying through the rate's [ same as a Gardner resident] and shouldn't be asked to pay twice. It may be in our best interest to pay the required amount in order to help keep the rates that we pay more stable for the long term.

Motion made by Packard seconded by Collette to forward to the Select board our recommendation [unanimous] to accept Robert Macdonald as the newest member of the commission.

A brief history of the Ashburnham Water Sewer Commission followed for Mr. MacDonald's benefit.

The chair recently sent emails to the administrative assistant and the Chair of the Select board requesting an update on the duties and responsibilities of the commission [from Town Counsel], awaiting response.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:45 Motion made by Packard seconded by Colette. Unanimous.  
Respectively submitted George E Cornwall Jr.