

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
June 16, 2015
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Eli Badger at 7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present at the meeting were Eli Badger, Alan Cilley, and David Toth

OTHERS PRESENT: Others present at the meeting were Christine Cilley, Normand DeWolf, Rusty Cross, Steve Bullard, Dan Vaughn, Kendall L. Hughes and Fran Newton.

NEW BUSINESS: The Water and Sewer Commissioners began by discussing with the Electric Commissioners Dan Vaughn and Kendall L. Hughes the issue of the placement of water meters at the Leavitt Hill development. The Water and Sewer Commissioners advised that the meters were going to be placed on each house. The system being used would be a drive by reading system.

The Electric Commissioners requested that the Water and Sewer Commissioners consider placing the water meters down next to the electric meters at the Leavitt Hill development. The Electric Commissioners made the request that the reading system being used by the Water and Sewer Department be compatible with the Electric Commission's Utility Star software program. The Water and Sewer Commissioners took both requests under advisement. As the Water and Sewer water meter reading project goes forward the Water and Sewer Department will get back in touch with the Electric Commission about the meters and the compatibility of the Utility Star software program.

The Electric Commissioners asked if the Water and Sewer Department would be willing to sell their interest in the two bays and office space now being used by the Water and Sewer Department. Eli Badger advised that the Water and Sewer Department was unable to sell the two bays in question because the Water and Sewer Department did not own them. The ownership of the bays and the property was held by the Town of Ashland.

Eli Badger went on to advise that Paul Branscombe, Town Administrator, had taken it upon himself to consult the town Attorney in this matter. The attorney said: "The Town of Ashland owns the Water and Sewer Department building." Eli continued that it is not up to the Water and Sewer Department to continue the conversation with the Electric Commission. The issue is still to be discussed further and a decision made on the future ownership of the building.

Normand DeWolf, liaison from the Board of Selectmen to the Water and Sewer Department, wanted the record to show that the Town Administrator, Paul Branscombe, took it upon himself to consult with the Town's attorney. The Ashland Board of Selectmen had nothing to do with the decision of the Town Attorney.

Rusty Cross, representing Utility Partners, advised the Commissioners that a fire hydrant on Riverside Drive had been damaged. When the situation was investigated it was found that the Holderness Fire Department had used the hydrant for practice with the result that the hydrant had been broken. Rusty advised that there was no notification to the town of this practice by the Holderness Fire Department. It was felt that the Holderness Fire Department should be notified and requested to repair the broken hydrant.

The Water and Sewer Department Commissioners traveled to Allenstown to observe their septage receiving station. Their concept is to pump waste water and waste solids into a container. The solid waste settles to the bottom and the waste water is drawn off and pumped out. The remaining solid waste is then off-loaded to dump trucks and taken off site for disposal. Allenstown does not have a lagoon system for septage receiving. The Allenstown system is low cost, user friendly, does not require machinery or moving parts to use. The Commissioners felt it was worth looking into further.

The Commissioners discussed two grants they are in the process of applying for. The grants are earmarked for Capital Improvement Projects to be completed by the department.

The Commissioners discussed updating the water and sewer tariffs. The water tariff needs to be reviewed to update the prices.

sewer tariff needs to be reviewed to update the language of the tariff.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing more to come before the Commissioners Alan Cilley made a motion to adjourn. David Toth seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Hancock
For the Ashland Water & Sewer Dept.