

**Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
September 1, 2015
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Eli Badger.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members present at this meeting were Eli Badger, Alan Cilley and David Toth.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Members of the public present at the meeting were Christine Cilley, Normand DeWolf, Fran Newton, Carol Fucarile, David Fucarile, and Rusty Cross.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rusty Cross submitted the monthly report for Utility Partners which was briefly reviewed by the Commissioners. Rusty advised that all the mowing in town had been completed. He advised that the clarifiers were taken care of.

David Toth advised the Commissioners that he had updated everything on the Project List. This was a list of proposed projects to be undertaken by the Water and Sewer Department in the near future. Mr. Toth advised that he would check into the present status of the Northern Borders Commissioners Grant that the Water and Sewer Department had applied for. The grant if awarded would give the department \$250,000 toward funds needed for the Septage Receiving Station. The purpose of the Station is to enable the department to separate out solids from the sewerage that is received from haulers. With this capability it is hoped that the lagoons at the sewage treatment plant will not have to be dredged for an additional 6-10 years. It is also hoped that the department can add 1-2 additional haulers at an additional income of \$100,000 to the department. With the possible awarding of this grant to the department coupled with the seeking of forgivable loans from DES will cover the necessary costs for the Septage Receiving Station.

There was a discussion of the needs and costs of the Septage Receiving Station and the burden caused to water and sewer ratepayers that upgrades to the Septage Receiving Station would cause.

There was a brief discussion of the present disposition and schedule for the annual flushing of the hydrants in town. Rusty Cross advised the Commissioners that the hydrants are flushed once a year just before Memorial Day. This has been the schedule for the past 20 years. The last report on the flushing of the hydrants in town was dated 1997. Rusty advised the Commissioners that the last ISO report of the flushing of the hydrants was done in the spring of 2006. This report is not done annually because the pressures in the hydrants and the levels of water in the hydrants are consistent year to year. The time and effort to do the ISO report is time consuming and expensive so it is done on a schedule such that it is not done annually. However, there is a 2006 ISO report on file. It was felt at the conclusion of the discussion that the Water and Sewer Commissioners and representatives from the fire department sit down at a mutually agreed upon date and time to discuss how the two departments can cooperate in the annual flushing of the fire hydrants.

The remainder of the meeting was taken up with a thorough discussion of the Thompson Street Project. At the conclusion of the discussion the concerns were

- There was insufficient return on the investment by the Water and Sewer Department to put sewer lines on Thompson Street
- There was insufficient time to adequately complete an engineering assessment of the project before the commencing of the project
- An engineering assessment needs to be completed before sewer lines can be installed on Thompson Street
- There was a concern about the expense of the project on the water and sewer ratepayers
- There were not enough residents on Thompson Street to connect to the new sewer lines to make the return on the investment
- Therefore, the Thompson Street Project installation of the sewer lines will not take place in calendar year 2015

Due to the lateness of the hour the discussion of the Hiltz contract was tabled to a future meeting.

Alan Cilley advised the Commissioners concerning the update on a conversation he recently had with Ms. Nesbitt. Her concerns expressed to the Commissioners were

- That the rocks on her property needed to be replaced
- That the curb needed to be rebuilt in front of her residence
- The flowers needed to be replaced
- Her water needed to be turned back on

Alan advised the Commissioners that the rocks and curb would be replaced within the next few weeks. He advised that the Commissioners give Ms. Nesbitt a one-time \$200 allotment of funds to assist her in replacing her flowers. It was further advised that the water pipe from the curb to her residence was presently broken. A pipe has been fashioned that will connect her from the curb to her residence. This connection has yet to take place. Ms. Nesbitt needs to connect with the water pipe at the curb. When this is accomplished the water can safely be turned back on.

David Toth advised the Commissioners that at the conclusion of the most recent Economic Development Committee meeting he had a conversation with Beno Lamontagne a member of the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Lamontagne was inquiring about the various projects the Water and Sewer Department were undertaking. Mr. Lamontagne expressed interest in working with the Water and Sewer Department on seeking out and applying for grants to fund the projects. Mr. Lamontagne would like to come to a future meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission to discuss his assistance further with the Commissioners.

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 concluded at 8:50 PM.

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