

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
November 3, 2015
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the public present at the meeting were Christine Cilley, Mardean Badger, Rusty Cross, Normand DeWolf and Paula Hancock.

NEW BUSINESS: Rusty Cross distributed the monthly report from Utility Partners to the Commissioners. He advised the Commissioners that he is still in the midst of winter maintenance at the plant, continuing to do seasonal water shutoffs for the season. He reported that the meter installation had begun.

Rusty Cross reported that the Riverside Drive Project was just about wrapped up. During the Riverside Drive Project an engineer was onsite and overseeing all phases of the project. Having the engineer onsite assured that everything was done to specifications and all the work of the project had been adequately documented.

The Commissioners discussed the meter installation project. The installation has been in process for two days. The project has met with some equipment problems. We need software to program the meters and to program future meters as they are installed. We need a reader in each truck which can accurately read the meter from the road. Both the program and the reader are promised from the manufacturer.

The Commissioners discussed the Leavitt Hill Project. They concluded that there is a problem somewhere between our water main and the Leavitt Hill pump station. The hydrants within the project have been tested and are working at the proper pressure. There appears to be a negative water pressure elsewhere but doesn't appear to have any connection to the hydrants. It was concluded that a valve within the system has broken. The problem appears to be with the Leavitt Hill developers and not with the Water and Sewer Department.

Eli Badger talked with the town legal department concerning creating a combined Water and Sewer District with Holderness. At the conclusion of the discussion it was felt that the Ashland residents having paid for a Water and Sewer system they would like to retain ownership of that system. There would be a number of problems combining Water and Sewer Districts with Holderness. It was felt that Eli should go back to the legal department of the town and discussed the validity of the 1986 warrant article that pertains to the restrictions for the Water and Sewer Department. It was felt that the Ashland Water and Sewer Department should stay separate from the Holderness Water and Sewer Department.

Eli reported that the Drinking Water grant had been submitted. He reported that the pre-application had been submitted for the Clean Water Revolving Fund for Receiving Stations. This Clean Water Revolving Fund grant proposal will need to go before the voters at Town Meeting. There is a 30% grant available to Ashland for Septage Receiving.

Eli Badger advised the Commissioners that there would be a meeting with the Northern Pass representatives on November 10.

Eli Badger advised the Commissioners that the Water and Sewer Commission needs to discuss with the Board of Selectmen their concerns about easements with regard to the Receiving Station lagoons and the town well sites. The Water and Sewer Commission wants proper easements set for the lagoons and the well sites for the town wells. By law the Northern Pass Project cannot be placed within the lagoon and town well easements. The ecosystem of the lagoons is fragile. The ecosystem of the town aquifer also found in this area is fragile. There is a chance of harming the aquifer. There is also a 4,000' protection buffer around the town wells and 1,000' protection around everything else. These also need to be considered in discussions. It was pointed out that the town gets none of the power, the jobs are only temporary in this area and Ashland receives no economic benefit from the Northern Pass Project for their lines to come through the town of Ashland.

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 meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Ashland Water and Sewer Dept.

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