

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
February 2, 2016
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Eli Badger, chair of the Water and Sewer Commission, 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 Chris Cilley, Fran Newton, Mardean Badger, and Normand DeWolfe

NEW BUSINESS:

Eli Badger advised the Commissioners that Rusty Cross would not be present at this meeting. The Utility Partners Report was tabled for this meeting. It will be reviewed at a future meeting.

The Commissioners discussed the deliberative session that was held this past Saturday prior to Town Meeting. Among the topics discussed was the loaning or transfer of funds from the Sewer Department to the Water Department. This question has been taken up with several knowledgeable accountants knowledgeable about municipal financial practices. The Commissioners have been assured that this practice is perfectly lawful.

The Commissioners discussed briefly the need to educate the Ashland ratepayer as to the reasons behind the costs for town water and sewer services. Initiatives on how to educate the local ratepayer was left for future discussion.

The Commissioners discussed the present state of the department's billing system. Eli Badger had a conversation with the President of BSMI a company that deals with billing system software. Eli was told that the towns of Franconia and Belmont use the BSMI software and are very pleased with the system. David Toth made a motion that we go with BSMI for our billing needs. Alan Cilley seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

There was a discussion about the payment of retiree benefits to a retired town worker. The solution to the discussion was for the Electric Department to pay the retiree benefits and bill the Water and Sewer Department as a normal department expense.

The question arose: If there was a circumstance whereby an Administrative Assistant from the Water and Sewer Department who is technically a town employee were injured on the job who would be libel? The Town? Or the Water and Sewer Department? It was determined that the town would be libel and would charge the Water and Sewer Department for any fees. The question was also raised as to who would pay the legal fees for the circumstance, the Board of Selectmen or the Water and Sewer Department?

The Water and Sewer Department's Intervenor Letter to the Northern Pass representative has been received by the Site Evaluation Committee and has been posted on their website.

Eli Badger advised the Commissioners that work continues on developing the Water and Sewer Department website.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no other business to come before the Water and Sewer Commission David Toth made a motion to adjourn. Alan Cilley seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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