

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
March 15, 2016
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Eli Badger, chair, 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 in attendance were Christine Cilley, Normand DeWolfe, and Fran Newton

NEW BUSINESS: The first order of business to come before the Commission was the reorganization of the Commission. David Toth made a motion to leave the Commission as it is: Eli Badger, Chair, Alan Cilley and David Toth Commissioners. Alan Cilley seconded the motion. With two votes in the affirmative and one abstention the motion passed.

The Utility Partners Report was tabled for this meeting. The Commissioners will review it at their next scheduled meeting.

The Commissioners discussed the Intervenors/Northern Pass meeting recently held in the area. Eli made a presentation to the SEC outlining Ashland's concerns about the Northern Pass Project. The subject of putting the lines underground along the I-93 corridor was discussed. While the State didn't find any objection to this proposal, the Northern Pass representatives were not inclined to go forward with this proposal. Most of the concern expressed at the meeting centered on the negative impact the project would have on scenic views in the area. Eli Badger spoke with Tony Guinta. Tony will set up a meeting with Nobis Engineering to discuss the concerns Ashland has relative to the Northern Pass Project.

David Toth expressed his concern that all the points and concerns that Ashland has be understood by the SEC and Northern Pass representatives. He suggested scheduling another presentation before the SEC and Northern Pass panel. He also suggested that some sort of handout be presented and handed out to emphasize our concerns and be a reference for discussions of the SEC and Northern Pass representatives going forward.

It was suggested that the Commissioners contact NHMA and learn from lawyers more about the Intervenor Process and its procedures. Understanding the Intervenor Process will help the Commissioners to pinpoint their presentation and add a well written Intervenor letter summarizing our concerns.

David Toth further suggested that now we have attended an Intervenor meeting the Commissioners meet with the Ashland Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission to create a presentation for the SEC and Northern Pass representatives. There is not much time before the next scheduled Intervenor meeting. The Commissioners will discuss this in more detail at a future meeting.

Eli Badger contacted Brandon Hiltz by email about the follow up to the Riverside Drive Project. Brandon replied that he will be in contact with DOT by April to bring the rough patches of road of the Riverside Drive Project up to State standards

Eli Badger advised the Commissioners that the new billing system for the department is ready for installation. He will contact Ann to schedule a convenient time for the installation. He will then contact EJ Prescott to come up to make sure that the EJ Prescott equipment can smoothly talk to the billing system software.

The Commissioners discussed the Winona Road Project. Eli Badger spoke with Tony Guinta about the town well which is located near Winona Road. Eli advised that the State has scheduled for Winona Road to undergo a cosmetic enhancement sometime in the 2017 calendar year. Eli would like the Water and Sewer Department project to stay to the right side of Winona Road. It has yet to be determined how much line will be needed for completion of this project.

In the Commissioners comments there was a discussion of the Town buying an F-350 truck with plow attachment with a state discount. The Commissioners will discuss this subject further at a future meeting.

David Toth advised the Commissioners that the department had been turned down for the Source Water Protection Grant. Eli advised that NHDES decided not to fund this particular grant this

cycle. The Commissioners will follow up with EGGE at a future date.

If there is any salt extraction taking place this year the Commissioners need to meet with Tony Guinta and Eversource.

Eli expressed his continuing concern about the Northern Pass Project and the placement of the towers near the lagoons. He doesn't see how the towers can be installed ten feet down in clay soil without disturbing the clay that lines the lagoons.

Alan Cilley made a motion to make the Commissioners agents to do the business of the Water and Sewer Department and to spend money. David Toth seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

There was a motion concerning the transfer of funds between departments. This motion was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

David Toth made a motion to pay the stipends to the Commissioners. Alan Cilley seconded the motion. With three yes votes the motion passed. The stipend allocation was part of the department budget which was approved by the Budget Committee and voted on by the town.

With nothing more to come before the Commissioners Alan Cilley made a motion to adjourn. David Toth seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock

For the Ashland Water & Sewer Dept.