

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
April 5, 2016
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Eli Badger, chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the public present at the meeting were Christine Cilley, Normand DeWolfe, and Rusty Cross.

NEW BUSINESS: Rusty and Eli spent a day taking a new meter reader with them and reading the new meters in town. With the new equipment they found that about 50 meters were turned off because the residences were only occupied during the summer months. They found some of the meters the equipment did not read. Eli was concerned that the readings from the meters did not make sense and frequently found that some meters gave out two different readings. Eli advised that more work needs to be done on this project. EJ Prescott, the manufacturers of the equipment will be in Ashland on April 18 to make any adjustments to the new meter readers so their information can be downloaded successfully to the computer data program.

The Commissioners will meet on Wednesday, April 6 at 9 AM to discuss requests from some ratepayers for amnesty from their water bills due to the issue of broken pipes.

The Commissioners are meeting with Tom Schwartz at 10 AM. They will meet with Steve Whitley concerning Northern Pass intervenor status at 11 AM on Wednesday.

The Commissioners discussed the Receiving Station Pilot Program. As part of the Pilot Program a concrete ramp using concrete blocks 2 x 2 x 3 is being constructed to elevate the haulers' trucks enough to dump their loads directly into a large container. With the ramp in the proper alignment the container can be dumped directly into the lagoons.

Once the ramp is completed the next step in the process is to obtain the proper number of containers by renting them. With the containers rented then clarifiers and the ramp need to be made ready for Phase II of the Pilot Program.

The Commissioners discussed the Northern Border Regional Commission Grant Program. David Toth had a conversation with a Mr. Hayes from NBRC. He had written Mr. Hayes about the Winona Road Project. This led to a conversation about Phase II of the Pilot Program for the Receiving Station. When the Pilot Program is completed it needs to be coordinated with the State. Mr. Hayes suggested that Ashland apply for a NBRC grant to help pay for the Phase II of the Pilot Program. Mr. Hayes asked if he could be given a copy of the most recent completed grant application Ashland submitted to NBRC for a previous grant. Mr. Hayes advised that the Economic Development portion of the new grant needs to be rewritten and enhanced. There needs to be a section of the grant that details the finances for the project. The new grant needs to be submitted for approval by the NBRC between June 1-11. It was felt that a tour of the facility would be helpful as part of the grant application process. Letters submitted from the haulers explaining to the NBRC Commission how the expansion of the Receiving Station would be helpful to the haulers would be helpful in the grant approval process. Mr. Hayes would like a copy of the Tax Map for the Receiving Station property.

Rusty Cross submitted to the Commissioners the monthly Utility Partners report. Rusty advised that the water leak on Carr Avenue had been taken care of. The trailer parks have also been taken care of.

Alan Cilley and Rusty Cross had priced some trucks for the department. The three trucks they looked at were \$40,388; \$40,885; and \$45,100. The trucks were all one ton trucks with a utility body and were either Fords or Chevys.

There was a concern raised about the Northern Pass Project interfering with the telemetry of the Receiving Station. It was felt that Northern Pass be requested to upgrade the telemetry of the Receiving Station as part of the project so Northern Pass would not interfere with the telemetry of the Receiving Station.

The Commissioners discussed Ashland's intervenor status in the Northern Pass Project. After much discussion the following points were made:

- Ashland has been ignored by the SEC, the Commission overseeing Northern Pass
- Ashland has been grouped in with Group 3 for the next intervenor process. Ashland has unique concerns about Northern Pass that other communities in Group 3 do not have.
- Ashland has submitted a request to the SEC to be removed from Group 3 and given individual intervenor status. Ashland has not heard from the SEC concerning this request.
- Eversource has requested exclusion from the requirements of Northern Pass. Group 3 has drafted and submitted a letter of objection to the Eversource exclusion. This action did not include Ashland.
- Steve Whitley will meet with the Commissioners to discuss the Northern Pass Project and explain to the Commissioners what has happened, what Ashland can do next, explain the intervenor process and explain what Ashland should not do.
- The next intervenors meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12 at 10 AM at Loon Mountain.

On Monday, April 11 at 6:30 on the second floor of the Town Hall the Electric Department and the Selectmen will meet to discuss the present ownership of the building at 6 Collins Street, the plans for the expansion of the building as well as the issue of benefits administration.

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 7:20 PM.

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