

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
May 19, 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 Alan Cilley, Eli Badger and David Toth.

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the public present for the meeting were Christine Cilley, Rusty Cross, David San Soucie, Stephen Bullard, Normand DeWolfe and Fran Newton.

NEW BUSINESS: Rusty Cross advised the Commissioners that the flushing of the fire hydrants in town was underway and would be completed by Thursday, May 21.

Rusty advised the Commissioners that the new motor had been installed in Town Well 2 and that the well was functioning properly.

Rusty commented that he had been accosted by some concerned residents about a pipe that ran from Jackson Pond to the Ames River. They were concerned that the town was flushing the pipe constantly and that chlorine was being dumped into the river. Rusty advised that the flushing of that particular pipe was necessary to keep the sediment in the pipe from causing additional problems and to keep the pipe free flowing. Rusty had been advised that the flushing of the pipe was a concern of the Conservation Commission. The Commissioners said that they were in contact with DES (Department of Environmental Services) and were awaiting the DES response to the problem.

David San Soucie a resident of Collins Street came before the Commissioners with concerns. His first concern was reading in the recent Commission newsletter that there is a plan to increase the number of haulers permitted to use the Ashland Waste Treatment Plant. The increase would be an additional 2-4 haulers. The present schedule for haulers is to use the Treatment Plant 7 AM-7 PM seven days a week.

Mr. San Soucie's concerns were

- Mr. San Soucie is concerned about the air quality in the neighborhood on Collins Street as well as the safety of drivers living in the neighborhood or passing through the neighborhood. The amount of diesel fumes emitted from the haulers' trucks as they pull into the plant is very concerning. The fumes come from the air brakes. The fumes rather than rising and dissipating sink over the area and stay well after the haulers' arrival at the plant. He wonders if there might be a means to create an alternate entrance to the plant for the haulers.
- The sound of air brakes on the haulers' trucks can be heard for 12 hours per day. Residents in the area would prefer a quieter neighborhood.
- He was requesting if something couldn't be done about enforcing the 20 mph speed limit on Collins Street. The trucks that come down Collins Street are quite large. Meeting a truck coming or going from the plant on the only one lane bridge in the neighborhood or on a curve in the road could prove quite dangerous for private driver or hauler.
- Mr. San Soucie sees the Collins Street neighborhood being slowly changed from a rural residential neighborhood to a commercial zone. He would like to see Collins Street remain rural and residential.
- Mr. San Soucie was concerned that this plan of additional haulers using the Waste Treatment Plant has been under discussion for some years now. No representative from the Water and Sewer Department came to discuss the issue and its ramifications to the residents of Collins Street.

The Commissioners put forth the following solutions to the issues presented.

- An apology from the Commissioners for not discussing the plan for additional haulers with the residents. The assumption was made that this discussion had already taken place.
- An alternative entrance to the plant would not be viable due partially to cost but also to a restricted right of way by deed to the land.

The Commissioners will discuss more thoroughly Mr. San Soucie's concerns. They invited him to participate in the upcoming discussions concerning the additional haulers to Ashland Water and Sewer Dept.

the Waste Treatment Plant and the future of the Collins Street neighborhood.

The Commissioners discussed a proposal from the Ashland Electric Department to buy out the Water and Sewer Department's interest in the bay garage and the second floor office space at 6 Collins Street for \$60,000.

The Commissioners raised the following concerns:

- A monetary value had to be put on the bay.
- If the Commissioners were to relinquish ownership of the office space on the second floor at 6 Collins Street a meeting time and a meeting space would be hard to find.
- The value of the meeting space and the space to park the truck is more valuable than what is being offered for the space.
- There could be a bay discussion but this discussion would be separate from the discussion about the office space on the second floor.
- Keeping the bay and office space we could build a meeting room on the first floor and make it accessible to residents with mobility challenges.
- The idea of either department building a small one story building on the 6 Collins Street property was discussed. Neither department could construct such a building at this time.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Commissioners agreed to ask representatives from the Electric Department to come and discuss this proposal at the Water and Sewer Commission's June 2 meeting.

At the public input portion of the meeting

- It was suggested that on the subject of meeting space for town government meetings all departments needed to be part of the conversation.
- Concerning the Electric Department proposal that both departments involved know what each department owns.
- That the police department and the haulers be made aware of the speed limit on Collins Street.

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 8 PM.

Ashland Water and Sewer Dept.

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May 19, 2015

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