

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
October 6, 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: Christine Cilley, Mardean Badger, Norm DeWolf, and Fran Newton.

NEW BUSINESS: Eli Badger advised the Commissioners that Rusty Cross and Michelle Roberts would not be present for the meeting. Therefore the report from Utility Partners and the GIS update from Michelle would be tabled for this meeting. These issues will be taken up at a future meeting.

The present Budget process has begun. The Commissioners agreed that more discussion concerning last year's budget and the default budget needed to take place.

Eli advised the Commissioners that in order for the River Side Drive project to go forward a complete set of plans for the project need to be delivered to Wesson and Sampson. This will take place shortly. The Commissioners have talked to Brandon Hiltz by phone concerning this project. The window to get the project completed is short. This is of concern to the Commissioners.

The Commissioners discussed the water meter installation issue. For this project to go forward the ratepayers mailing list needs to be verified before installation can take place. It was agreed by the Commissioners to have the verification take place at the same time as the meter installation. It was agreed to contact the installers and ask them to install the meters as soon as possible.

David Toth advised the Commissioners about the grants that are presently in process. The Commissioners will need a grant to install monitoring equipment in the Avery well so that the well can be monitored all the time not just twice a year.

There is a Water Protection Grant in process.

The Commissioners are awaiting discussions concerning the mitigating of salt in the town water system. There are different processes to mitigate the salt. The Commissioners would like to discuss these processes in more detail before making a decision on how to mitigate the salt.

The Commissioners are awaiting further discussions concerning the Northern Borders Grant.

The Commissioners would like to contact our Federal representatives concerning the Rural Development Grant program. The Commissioners have been told that because Ashland has too many financial assets makes them ineligible for this grant program. The Commissioners would like to sit down with Rep. Annie Kuster to discuss their situation with the Rural Development Grant as well as to see if there are any other grants on the federal level that Ashland might be eligible for.

The Commissioners would like to establish an Excel spreadsheet format for the billing program for the department. They would like to work with Jack Harty to set up the new billing format as well as any changes in the billing program for the new billing system. The Commissioners would like to see an Excel spreadsheet and a Quickbooks billing system. The Commissioners would like to see the new billing system be put in place in time for the first of 2016.

David Toth prioritized the upcoming projects for the department for the coming months:

- Department Finances
- River Side Drive Project
- Winona Road Project

The Commissioners discussed several solutions to the Winona Road Project. More discussion needs to take place before a decision can be rendered on this project.

The Commissioners discussed solutions to the cleaning of the grit trap at the Plant. They discussed solutions to the separation of water and solids at the Plant and the best way to haul away the solids. There is a company called Novis that will assist us with any changeover.

The Commissioners discussed the Northern Pass representative's meeting with the Selectboard. The Northern Pass right of way goes right through the Water and Sewer Department's lagoons. The Commissioners would not like to see any more trucks coming through their town well sites. The Commissioners would like to see Northern Pass pay for the right of way in perpetuity instead of a one-time payment.

There is the possibility of a proposal to place a cell tower on top of the town's water tower. Eli advised the Commissioners that the water tower is placed in a rural/rural residential zone. Cell towers by law cannot be placed in rural or rural residential zones. They can only be placed in commercial or industrial zones.

The Commissioners briefly discussed moving the present meeting room downstairs for easier access for the public. Since the building is a town building any renovation proposals will need to be presented to the town's Selectboard.

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.

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