

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
November 17, 2015
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

David Toth in the absence of Eli Badger opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members present for the meeting were David Toth and Alan Cilley

OTHERS PRESENT:

Members of the public gathered for the meeting were Rusty Cross, Normand DeWolf, Steven Bullard, Christine Cilley and Paula Hancock.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rusty Cross advised the Commissioners that Utility Partners were in the midst of winter maintenance. The maintenance is going according to the prescribed schedule. They are repairing meters and installing readers where necessary. The software for the readers has been installed. When the readers are actually delivered the company will come back and make additional installation of software to make the entire system usable. The software is an Excel spreadsheet. The Commissioners foresee using the present old system until the end of the year at which time they expect that the new readers will be installed and all parts of the software program are also installed and running. The Commissioners discussed briefly the costs of the new software program and the new billing system. The Commissioners were discussing the fact that they would like Utility Partners to read their meters for a fee over and above the fees for services already in the present contract. Utility Partners will look into this new proposal by the Commissioners. The underbrush at the plant is being cut back for the season.

The Commissioners discussed the proposal put together by Tom Schwartz for the engineering at the Septage Receiving Station. There is also a proposal put forth by Wesson and Sampson for the same project. The Commissioners discussed the need to put the entire project out for bid. The Commissioners decided to go with Nobis as their engineering consultant for the project for a set fee. The Commissioners need to look at the designs for the project and decide which design they are going to select and put the entire project out to public bid.

The Commissioners discussed the Riverside Drive Project. Rusty Cross advised the Commissioners that the paving had been completed on Riverside Drive. There needs to be a testing of the paving portion of the project. This will take place in the spring. The Commissioners would like to withhold payment to Jeff Provost until the testing portion of the project has been completed. The Commissioners advised that the withholding of payment was not part of the discussion at the time of the signing of the contract. It was not included as part of the contract language. The repaving needs a regrind and the lanes need to be aligned. That will be done in the spring.

The Commissioners discussed the size and placement of the towers for the Northern Pass Project. The tallest tower will be 100' high. Northern Pass wants to place the towers in the midst of the well field and along the backside of the lagoons.

The Commissioners met with representatives of Northern Pass but felt that their questions and concerns were not adequately answered at this particular meeting. If Northern Pass encroaches on the monitoring wells for the town it will be the responsibility of Northern Pass to drill a test well.

The Commissioners expressed the following concerns:

- The closeness of the Northern Pass wires to the Water and Sewer Department equipment. The Northern Pass wires cause static which can disrupt the signal from the sewer plant equipment.
- Northern Pass wires not shielded
- The access to the Northern Pass towers traverses private property and the access to the sewer plant property is very limited.
- The footings for the towers are too close to the lagoons which is not good.
- The pilings into the sandy soil will interfere with the running of the plant
- The public is concerned about being able to see the towers and the towers destroying the view of much of the town
- Northern Pass will interfere with the economic development of the town
- Investigate the department installing solar panels that the sewer plant can run off of.

The Commissioners are going to talk to representatives of the Northern Borders grant to ascertain how they might improve on the submission of their next grant application.

The water and sewer budgets for the department will be submitted as separate budgets with separate warrant articles on this year's budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing more to come before the Commissioners Alan Cilley made a motion to adjourn. David Toth seconded the motion. With both votes in the affirmative the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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