

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
January 5, 2016
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
7:00 PM

- CALL TO ORDER:** Eli Badger, chair of the Water and Sewer Commission, called the meeting to order 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 present at the meeting were Christine Cilley, Mardean Badger, Norm DeWolf and Rusty Cross.
- NEW BUSINESS:** Rusty Cross distributed the monthly Utility Partners report to the Commissioners. Included in the report was a letter from Steve Bullard referencing CPI. Rusty advised the Commissioners that he was still seeking a relay to the pump station. All other aspects of the Plant and Receiving Station were working properly.
- Rusty advised the Commissioners that the new meter reading project went well. The next step in the process is to take the information from the new meter reading equipment and put it into a spreadsheet format for billing purposes.
- The Water and Sewer Commissioners submitted to the Board of Selectmen a warrant article to be put before Ashland voters at the upcoming Town Meeting. The warrant article reads as follows: “Shall the Town of Ashland raise and appropriate an amount of money not to exceed \$100,000 for the Phase I construction of a Septage Receiving Station at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Under RSA 31:95-b allow for the inclusion of a warrant article at the meeting authorizing the governing body to apply for, accept and expend money from unanticipated sources (US Rural Development Authority and/or the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services) without further action by municipal meeting.”
- The Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about the Water and Sewer Budget they recently submitted to the Budget Committee for approval. The Budget Committee did not approve the Water and Sewer Department budget for 2016. The Budget Committee removed all capital expenditures from the department budget.

The Commissioners discussed the best course of action to cover the department expenses for the next calendar year. The Capital Reserve funds are already allocated for certain projects. The savings account for the department has unallocated funds in it. The funds in the savings account would come before the voters to fund specific projects. The Commissioners will meet with their accountant to find a way to move funds from savings to Capital Reserve to be used for allocated projects. The Commissioners need to meet with the accountant to find a way to transfer funds from the Sewer Department to Water Department to be able to pay expenses for both departments. The Commissioners will meet with the Budget Committee to discuss differences they have concerning the Water and Sewer Department budget. The Commissioners will also create a default budget that in the event that the original budget proposal is not approved by the Budget Committee the default budget can be presented to voters at Town Meeting.

The Commissioners were notified that they were not the recipients of the Asset Management Planning Grant. However, they were eligible to reapply for the grant at a future date.

The Commissioners will send a letter to Michelle Clark at DRA to find out the best way to pay department expenses out of the department savings account. The Commissioners will inquire of the DRA the correct way to set up the department accounts for the coming calendar year. They will then meet with the department's accountants. The Commissioners will meet with the Budget Committee to come to an agreement about the Water and Sewer departments' budgets and the correct way to handle the entire issue.

The Commissioners discussed their concerns regarding the Northern Pass Project. The Commissioners are still within the timeframe given to submit statements to Northern Pass documenting their concerns about the project. Their concerns were as follows:

- Concerns about the installing of 1 100' tower and 1 80' tower within 100' of the Septage Receiving Station lagoons
- Concern about the fragility of the lagoons
- Health and safety issues of the town
- To get towers installed will need to create 50' rectangles to get towers in place. Concern is what this will do to the lagoons in the course of installation

- Northern Pass can and will disrupt the Water and Sewer Department service to the town in installing the towers and in access to the towers
- Northern Pass will also disrupt our town well sites with the installation and access to their towers.

Novis will be hired to discuss the Water and Sewer Department concerns with the Northern Pass representative. The Water and Sewer Department concerns will be written and submitted to the Northern Pass representative within the timeframe of the Intervenor.

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 8:05 PM.

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