

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
May 17, 2016
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Eli Badger called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Others present for the meeting were Mardean Badger, Christine Cilley, Fran Newton, Normand DeWolfe, Rusty Cross and Steve Bullard.

NEW BUSINESS: The Ashland Water and Sewer Commission were in receipt of a letter from the Department of Environmental Services concerning a complaint brought by Harold Lamos an Ashland Conservation Commission member and a member of the Ashland Board of Selectmen. The letter written by Mr. Lamos made the following allegations:

- He was concerned about water runoff on his property from the flushing of town hydrants near his property. He wanted the town crew to stop flushing the town hydrants.
- He did not identify himself as a town official until well along in the conversation with the Water and Sewer Department crew.
- The Water and Sewer Department is putting acid into the water lines as part of their flushing process.

The Water and Sewer Department needs to prove to the NH Department of Environmental Services that the department does not engage in flushing the town water lines with acidic chemicals. The Department needs to prove that the department will isolate Winona Road so that nothing different is happening there.

The Water and Sewer Department need to write a letter to the NH Department of Environmental Services explaining in detail what the department's process and procedure is for flushing town hydrants. The department needs to show and then prove that their hydrant flushing procedures are different from what Mr. Lamos has portrayed in his complaint to DES.

Ms. Petac, a town resident, has raised her own concern that the town Water and Sewer Department is putting acid in the town water lines as part of their hydrant flushing procedure.

She is concerned that this acid is being flushed into Ames Brook. The Ashland Water and Sewer Department has until June 10 to respond to the allegations put forth by Mr. Lamos and answer any questions put forth by the Department of Environmental Services.

The Ashland Water and Sewer Department will take the following procedures:

- Request that NOVIS fast track any reports for the department on this issue
- Contact Rick Scarinkis from the NH Water Department apprising him of the contents of the DES letter and the allegations of Mr. Lamos
- Contact Tracy Wood concerning the contents of the DES letter
- Contact a representative of the Waste Water Department concerning the acid in the water line allegation.
- The Commissioners would like to have a meeting with Rick Scarinkis, Tracy Wood and the representative from the Waste Water Department to meet together with the Commissioners to discuss the allegations, the confusion caused by the language in the letter and try to resolve the allegations put forth in the letter.
- The Commissioners felt that the town legal counsel should be retained to talk with the Commissioners about the contents of the DES letter; how to properly proceed to answer the questions put forth by the DES; if the actions and allegations put forth by Mr. Lamos would constitute any legal or civil action by the Commissioners going forward; if there was anything in the letter or the allegations that could bring additional legal or civil action going forward.

The Water and Sewer Department advised that when flushing town hydrants the following chemicals are used:

- Polyphosphate
- Sodium Hydroxide
- Sodium Hypo chloride

These chemicals are used in any flushing procedure in Ashland and are used in most communities across the country for flushing purposes.

The Water and Sewer Department Commissioners need to forward their concerns about the contents of the DES letter, the allegations made by Mr. Lamos as well as Mr. Lamos' behavior in the situation to the proper town boards, commissions, and committees responsible in addressing both the situation and the behaviors.

The Ashland Budget Committee has requested that the Commissioners of the Water and Sewer Department supply information to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee has requested that the information be submitted to them by the first Tuesday of the month in time for the regular Budget Committee meeting. The Commissioners pointed out that the first Tuesday of the month is the day the billing for the entire Water and Sewer Department is completed. The Commissioners will supply the Budget Committee with the information they request but the Commissioners feel they can't meet the "first Tuesday of the month" deadline. The Commissioners will get the information to the Budget Committee as soon as possible.

The Commissioners will talk to Tom Schwartz and Jessica Richards of Woodard and Curren about the draft of the Northern Borders Grant. The Commissioners need letters from the haulers to attach to the grant draft. The Commissioners will contact the haulers for the letters. The grant draft is 95% complete. It needs to be reviewed by Chris Whey. The grant needs to be submitted by mid-June.

There were no Commissioners issues to discuss nor any questions or concerns from the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

David Toth made a motion to adjourn. Alan Cilley seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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