

Ashland Water and Sewer Commission Minutes
October 18, 2016
6 Collins Street
Ashland, NH
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Eli Badger, Chair of the Commission, called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the public present for the meeting were Rusty Cross, Mardean Badger, Fran Newton, Christine Cilley and Steve Bullard

NEW BUSINESS: Rusty advised the Commissioners that he continues to work on seasonal shutoffs and preparing the plant for the winter season.

Alan Cilley and David Toth met last week. They signed a contract with Flow Trend. This is the company that the Commissioners have been in discussions about a filter and container that filters the larger solids and grit out of the waste water that flows through the Septage Receiving Station.

David Toth advised that Chris Whitley, Ashland's legal counsel for the Northern Pass Project, sent the Commissioners a contract from Novus, an engineering firm that Ashland has used in the past for the engineering phase of several department projects. The Commissioners did not sign this contract. They were advised that Novus had a conflict of interest representing both the Town of Ashland as well as Northern Pass interests. Chris Whitley then sent the Commissioners a contract for Northern Pass with a company named San Soucie. The Commissioners signed this contract. They are unsure at this point if they will need San Soucie's services.

David Toth advised that he has now completed the Department Budget. He added that at the time of the October 15 deadline set by the Ashland Budget Committee he did not have all the budget information he needed to complete the budget. He would like to make sure that he gets all pertinent information regarding the budget well ahead of the Town Budget Committee's deadline for departmental budgets. Mr. Toth assured the other Commissioners that further discussion was needed before the department budget could be sent to the Budget Committee. He felt sure that he could deliver the budget to the Budget Committee shortly.

David Toth gave the Commissioners an update on the Winona Road Project. He and Alan Cilley met with Mike Latullippe who advised them that he is available to do the work on the Winona Road Project. He can begin the work the week of October 24. David and Alan also spoke with Mike Cianci of Novus who will handle any DES issues. Mike Latullippe has not given the Commissioners an estimate for the Winona Road Project but indicated that it would probably be under \$50,000. Mr. Latullippe will meet with the Commissioners to discuss the Winona Road Project further.

Eli Badger received an email from Hoyland Tanner, a representative of the company hired to complete a design for Thompson Street. He was inquiring if the Commissioners wanted to use blue brite or ductile iron sewer lines for the Thompson Street Project. The Commissioners will meet with Hoyland Tanner, Tim Paquette of the Ashland Public Works Department as well as Rusty Cross from the Water and Sewer Department.

Jeff Martz representing Emery and Garrett emailed the Commissioners to see if they are interested in submitting a grant to DES to fund a desaltization project for the Ashland water system. Further discussions between Jeff Martz and the Commissioners need to take place before any decision can be made.

The Commissioners received an email from Christine Frost of the Northern Borders Regional Commission Grant Program. She indicated in her email that there was some missing information from the Commissioners. The missing information dealt with the total amount of the grant received by Ashland in the amount of \$250,000. The Northern Borders Grant Program wanted to know where Ashland was taking the matching funds for the grant. Ms. Frost was advised that the matching funds were coming from the department's Capital Fund. At this time the Capital Fund has a balance of \$426,768.35 to cover the matching funds. This amount is shown as a line item in the current department budget.

The Commissioners received several written questions concerning Northern Pass. Many of the written questions do not apply to Ashland's particular situation and concerns regarding Northern Pass. Many of the questions revolve around issues that towns in the southern part of the State are concerned about.

Mr. Guinta, a representative for Eversource, would like to meet with the Commissioners concerning the procedures needed to get Northern Pass machinery down Collins Street and onto the Northern Pass site near the Septage Receiving Station. The Water and Sewer Commission is responsible for the Septage Receiving Plant's operations but the plant itself is on town land and therefore the Northern Pass representatives need to talk with the Ashland Board of Selectmen.

The Commissioners have been contacted by the Town of New Hampton inquiring if Ashland can provide water to New Hampton when needed. New Hampton would need 12,000-18,000 gallons of water per day. This is well within Ashland's license. The Commissioners need to contact Plymouth for further discussions between the two towns on this issue. Plymouth and Ashland take their towns' water from the same aquifer.

The Commissioners advised that several weeks ago they issued an invitation to the Ashland Conservation Commission to meet to discuss the Conservation Commission's concerns about the town water supply. The Conservation Commission was invited to meet with the Water and Sewer Commission at their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 18, 2016. The Water and Sewer Commission did not receive a response.

The Commissioners discussed briefly the Pilot Program. The Commissioners need to write a letter to the Town Trustees requesting that \$426,000 be placed into the expenditure line of the budget. They said that the department has ordered another rental unit for filtering the more solid waste at the Septage Receiving Station. The Commissioners feel that the new rental unit will take care of any issues presently experienced at the Septage Receiving Station.

The Commissioners discussed briefly the outcome of the recent tentative agreement of the union contract. Alan Cilley made the following motion: We accept the tentative agreement of the union contract. Eli Badger seconded the motion. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed. The members of the union will vote on the tentative agreement in approximately two weeks.

ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing more to come before the Commissioners David Toth made a motion to adjourn. With three votes in the affirmative the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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