

EXETER WATER & SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINAL MINUTES
August 7, 2013

Convene Meeting:

Chairman Robert Kelly, Frank Ferraro – Selectmen’s Rep., Boyd Allen, John Gilbert, Paul Roy, Mike Jeffers – Water/Sewer Managing Engineer, were all in attendance. Robert Kelly convened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

1. Minutes of 6/12/2013:

Selectman Ferraro commented he had two amendments to the minutes. The first being on page 1 there is a bullet reading “The members discussed the \$500,000 in each fund/reserve along with surplus and make up all of it in reserve” and Selectman Ferraro was confused by this statement. Chairman Kelly said the intent was trying to keep the rates level. Selectman Ferraro suggested to scratch the word “along” and put “with surplus being used to stabilize rates”.

The second amendment Selectman Ferraro had was on next page $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down regarding the amount of “million gallons a day”, scratch “1.7 mgd” and insert “6 mgd according to Kleinfelder, and 7 mgd according to Weston & Sampson data.”

Mr. Gilbert had a couple minor amendments, changing “SP11” on page three to “SB11” in all places that apply.

A Motion was made by Mr. Gilbert and seconded by Mr. Allen to accept the minutes of 6/12/2013 as amended. Motion carried – all in favor.

2. Water / Sewer Bill Abatement Requests – Mike Jeffers:

Mike Jeffers reported three abatements:

- 22 Crestview Drive. On March 11 a cleaning company cleaned the premises. The toilet was running non-stop. New tenants moved in April 1 and did not know about the toilet. Mr. Jeffers assessed and concluded no abatement.
- 17 Liberty Lane. Went on vacation and someone left the water on. The water bill was 2.46 times higher than normal. Mr. Jeffers assessed and concluded no abatement.
- 6 Hayes Mobile Home Park. The person thought the bill seemed high for one person. Mr. Jeffers assessed and concluded there was no leak and no abatement.

3. Regular Business – Projects Update – Mike Jeffers:

a.) Chairman Kelly asked about CSOs and Mr. Jeffers reported there hadn’t been any. Selectman Ferraro asked about the storm sewer easement behind Robbins and Mr. Jeffers said it is a 24 inch pipe that drains by gravity. Selectman Ferraro asked if it went down Haven and Mr. Jeffers wasn’t able to answer off the top of his head. Selectman Ferraro gave some info about how people are going the residential sump pump replacements. Mr. Jeffers informed that the people that declined the replacements didn’t have a sump pump. Chairman Kelly asked to put the Financial Report on the agenda as 3. B.

b.) Mr. Gilbert reported the sewer fund is healthy at \$2,000,000. Russ Dean emailed Mr. Gilbert and suggested looking into reserves to pay off debts. There would be a savings of \$30,000-40,000 if the debts were paid off. He was not looking for any decision but just wanted to share this information. Selectman Ferraro asked what the dollar amount is and Chairman Kelly said he would look into it.

The Committee remained concerned about the over 90 days accounts receivable accounts. They would urge finance to keep on those accounts. Brian Griset spoke, asking what the reserve is on water. Chairman Kelly answered \$1.3 million.

4. Old Business:

a. Update on GWTP:

Mr. Jeffers reported they are at the 75% point. He introduced Paul Roy, who said Weston & Sampson is 95% done with the design as of August 8. He said there is a lot of permitting to go through. Chairman Kelly asked if anything has changed, and there was a discussion on the color of the exterior of the building. Mr. Roy said they are deciding between a small collection of colors, mostly natural tones that blend well. Mr. Kelly talked about some future expansion capabilities. Mr. Jeffers said yes, they are providing space for expansion. However, Mr. Roy said there are a lot of wetlands and it is tight as it stands. There was a discussion about surrounding wetlands and where there would be room to expand.

Selectman Ferraro talked about the Board of Selectman meeting, saying Ms. Perry reported the initial capacity will be 1 mgd with a potential of 1.56 mgd, but Mr. Dean reported 1.56 mgd with a potential of 2.06 mgd. He went on to say the town voted on the design to be 2.16 mgd future capacity so they were 100,000 short.

Mr. Roy said they have been looking for a lower cost alternative for years and the plant will provide that. He said if they are shorting themselves on capacity they'll want to expand because it is a cheaper way to get water. Mr. Jeffers said those are max numbers which won't be hard to achieve, but things might change. Selectman Ferraro would like some numbers "chiseled in stone". He would like some numbers that stick. Mr. Gilbert tried to clarify, asking if the plant is designed to handle a max flow of 2.16 mgd. He said the numbers simply have to match the warrant article. Selectman Ferraro stated three filters will give 1.4 mgd and four filters will give 2.16 mgd. Just to give an example, Mr. Roy said in the spring, when they do flushing, they do approximately 1.7 mgd (1100 gallons per minute) easily with three filters. Chairman Kelly would like to finalize the numbers and have them jive with what was voted on.

b. Exeter/Stratham interconnection status:

-Financial Committee

Chairman Kelly reported things will move quickly in the next month. He said the Financial Committee consists of Russ Dean, Matt Quandt, Paul Scafidi, and himself. He went on say they had hired someone at UNH to do a financial analysis of the system. He said they got some recent data back. There is going to be a three part system for both water and sewer. There will be a buy-in fee of some sort and a rate structure for Stratham. The buy-in fee will be based on the assessed value of

the system, translating into a 30-year fee and the “goodwill” of Exeter having the facility and Stratham not. He said there was also going to be a non-usage fee. They want a capacity that they won’t be using and they want to reserve the capacity, but Exeter has to build it. Exeter may not see revenue for years.

Selectman Ferraro said there will be a significant cost to rate payers. He gave some numbers of what rate payers will be paying. Chairman Kelly said this is a nice opportunity to have a big customer (Stratham). It could help out both Exeter and Stratham to finance the impact fee.

- Technical Committee

John Gilbert and Mike Jeffers are on the Technical Committee.

Mr. Gilbert said they are looking closely at flows. He said he is putting together a summary of flow estimates. He used the most recent and conservative estimates. He talked about who to manage issues around the system used, wondering who is responsible for running Stratham’s system; Exeter or them? He thinks Exeter should be part of running their system. The construction of their system needs to meet Exeter’s standards. He generated a list of possible issues. He said they are meeting with Stratham on August 19th. He thinks it can be sorted out, just needs some clarity.

Chairman Kelly said they have given an agreement with their offer. He will provide a copy. Selectman Ferraro asked if there was one master meter. Mr. Gilbert said that is a question too because if something breaks there then what? Chairman Kelly said if something breaks on your side then you fix it. Selectman Ferraro asked if there is a CSO does Exeter pay alone. Chairman Kelly said there won’t be any CSOs with the new system.

Mr. Gilbert said they have to be able to have input in their design process. Chairman Kelly said they are more than on board with meeting Exeter’s standards.

Mr. Jeffers said many of the SSOs are grease related. He said many Exeter businesses have replaced interceptors and Stratham needs to do the same.

5. Other Business to be brought before the Committee

Chairman Kelly reported Mr. Dean said on the water side the water meter replacements are ongoing. They don’t foresee any projects on the sewer side. He said there is the Lincoln Street project that Mr. Dean wants to pay for out of reserves. He wants to split it up into water and sewer. He is going to have Mr. Dean put together a proposal to discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Jeffers said there will be a public discussion about the Portsmouth Avenue project at the Monday (August 12) Board of Selectmen meeting. There are two options to discuss; night work versus a day time detour. He said day work is much cheaper and better quality work will be done. He is hoping the Board takes into consideration all aspects of night v. day. He would like the Board to consider day. Selectman Ferraro said he assumes all of the BOS is taking this seriously. He said neither option seems presentable. He is hoping there will be more discussion by the team to come up with an alternative. Chairman Kelly asked if there is any sort of nighttime premium. Mr. Jeffers guessed 20% if not higher.

6. Committee Calendar:

The next regular meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Nowak Room of the Town Office.

Adjourn the Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Nicole McCormack, recording secretary

