

Exeter Water and Sewer Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2014

Call meeting to Order

Chairman Bob Kelly called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Offices building. Introduced the Committee: Paul Scafidi, Selectwoman Nancy Belanger, Jim Tanis, John Gilbert, Vice Chair Gene Lambert, Chairman Bob Kelly, and David Michelson.

Review and approve draft minutes of July 9, 2014 meeting

A motion to approve made by Mr. Gilbert and seconded by Vice Chair Lambert to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried- all in favor.

1. Water/ Sewer Bill Abatement Requests and/ or discussions with customers

No abatement requests.

2. Regular Business

a. **Projects Update:** Mike Jeffers report. Mr. Jeffers was not at the meeting.

- i. Hampton Road water tank rehab project. Paul Gould, Exeter resident, discussed with the committee that there should have been more neighborhood notification regarding the rehab project. Even though the project is complete, he came forward so future projects may involve more neighborhood communication.

Mark Donovan of 11 Wayside Drive went on record to voice that there should have been more neighborhood notification about the impacts and timing of the water tank rehab project.

- ii. I/I Projects. Mr. Kelly relayed from Mr. Jeffers that there is ongoing smoke testing being done by the Public Works Department throughout the town. They will be getting updated data on the Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) projects in the next few months.
- iii. Meter replacement project. Project has been completed and feedback on the data collection and associated revenue impacts has been requested by the Committee but not received to date. Mr. Kelly said that stated that maybe they should possibly look at conducting that assessment using one of our General Services consultants. The committee went on record as requesting some feedback by the end of the year.

- iv. Vineyards Condominiums water connection discussion. Mark Devine gave a brief overview of the Vineyards Condo development in Stratham off Academic Way. They are a 55 and older private development, and have two wells and a pump house system and water distribution system. Their management group is researching tying into the Town of Exeter's water system as a way to reduce costs. General discussion ensued on the topic. Mr. Kelly explained that there is a Board of Selectmen's policy from 2000 in place that prohibits selling water out of town; the town is in process of discussing with Stratham selling water on a commercial level, but selling to residential customers have generally not been allowed since the Town started experiencing capacity issues in the late 1990s. Since the Vineyards request is for an action not currently allowed by town policies, the Committee recommended that they start a conversation with the Town of Stratham and have their selectmen make a proposal, if desired, to our selectmen on this issue.

- v. Wastewater options update. Mr. Kelly discussed how August saw a lot of activity with the preliminary conclusions regarding prior discussions of building a new plant facility on Newfield's road, or looking into pumping our waste water untreated to some other facility and looking at various options. He mentioned that the overriding goal of a pumping option would be to remove our discharge outfall from Great Bay. Due to the extraordinary cost of a new plant, we also need to look at potentially lower cost options. A pumping option with cost sharing by another town may be such an alternative. Logistics and cost scenarios are being assessed for consideration as the budget season approaches.

Mr. David Michelson is the committee rep for the project. He met with Mike Jeffers and received the copy of the draft facilities plan. He mentioned the next work shop is October 3rd at 7:30am at public works. Mr. Michelson is doing a technical review currently of the draft report by Wright Pierce Engineers.

Mr. Lambert mentioned that the non point source aspect of nitrogen in the Bay penalizes the individual utility users as they end up paying for everything. Wright Pierce's report indicates over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the nitrogen in the Squamscott River is from sources other than the treatment plant, yet the Town is the only entity currently having to spend money to reach nitrogen limits set by USEPA. Mr. Michelson agreed that we are picking up the cost for the non point sources of the River. Mr. Kelly said that they will be visiting this by the end of October. The plan is to have solid conclusions and alternatives to look at for our November meeting.

b. Financial Reports and 2015 Budget

The August financial reports were previously distributed by email and discussed by the committee.

Discussion ensued regarding a possible proposed I/I project to review at either Westside Drive or Downing Court, both of which were either 2 or 3 on the I/I projects list that the committee discussed in 2011. There may also be at least one pipeline project from the CIP list. Mr. Kelly did state he was disappointed on behalf of the committee that there was not a definitive list to review at this time with the public works department. The Town Budget Committee will review the Water and Sewer Dept budget in early November so we may have to weigh in before that.

Mr. Lambert commented that he had questions regarding the fund balance. General discussion ensued on specific aspects of the report. September 24th will be the first budget meeting. Any comments or questions should go through Mr. Kelly as he is on the Budget Committee.

3. Old Business

- i. Mr. Kelly said that the plan in early 2015 is to hire a rate consultant to review our impact fees, current and future rates, and overall financing of our water and sewer facilities needs. Mr. Gilbert is working on a Request for Proposals to be published in the next month or so.
- ii. Mr. Paul Roy, the Town Water Treatment Plant's chief operator, gave some preliminary data on the wastestream reduction project. He stated that they are reducing waste water discharge by 2 ½ percent so far and that the chemical reduction is running about the same. They will be recycling the sample water in the upcoming weeks. So far the numbers are preliminary and will take a good 6 months to see if numbers stay the same. The numbers on carbon have gone up but Mr. Roy is keeping an eye on those numbers.

4. Other Business to be brought before the Committee

Mr. Brian Griset spoke regarding the lack of public discussion about the wastewater options at this meeting. He noted that when he was on the committee in the early 2000s, there were detailed technical discussions of projects, sometimes lasting 2 or 3 hours. Mr. Kelly explained that, due to the number of projects currently being worked on by the Town, he had assigned each committee member to be a representative to DPW meetings and report back to the W/S Committee when appropriate conclusions had been determined. He had determined that there was not enough meeting time to discuss everything in detail, so final alternatives and reports would be the only thing publically discussed at our meetings. All meetings with DPW are posted so if anyone wants to be part of the assessment and analysis process, they can schedule that time on their own.

5. Committee Calendar

Next meeting is Wednesday November 12th, 6:30 pm at town offices. Preliminary agenda times will be to discuss budgets and the final waste water options report.

Chairman Kelly adjourned the meeting at 7:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Nelcoski, Recording Secretary