

# Exeter Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2015

### 1. 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. Other members present were David Michelsen, Gene, Lambert, John Gilbert, Paul Scafidi, Jim Tanis, and Anne Surman the Board of Selectman's representative.

### 2. Abatements

There were no abatement requests for this meeting.

### 3. Regular Business

#### a. Projects Update

##### i. General Summary of On-Going Projects by Public Works – Mike Jeffers

Mr. Jeffers was not in attendance but had supplied the committee with a summary of on-going work by the Department. Key items are as follows:

- The town has signed an agreement with PEA regarding the terms of use of Stadium Well, a critical component of our new Groundwater supply and treatment system. The committee did not have a copy of the agreement but was advised it included terms for typing into our current and developing system.
- The town signed a contract with Underwood Engineers to conduct more smoke testing and field investigations in search of inflow sources to the wastewater conveyance system. Key areas of interest will include PEA.
- There is a pending issue of THMs in the water system that will need to be addressed. Mr. Jeffers indicated we will probably be issued a violation notice from the Dept of Environmental Services for the last quarter. He is working with Weston and Sampson on this issue.

##### ii. Presentation on Groundwater Treatment Facility construction progress

Jim Tanis is the committee liaison to the GWTP construction. He has stopped by the construction site periodically and noted that the construction schedule of late summer/early Fall is currently on track.

### **iii. Discussion on Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Design – Wright Pierce**

Mr. Kelly referenced the draft Preliminary Design Report distributed by Wright Pierce Engineers earlier this month. The report describes four basic options for design with some alternatives and phasing options added to some of the design layouts. A general layout of technical assessments and financing options will be presented by WP at the DPW offices on Friday, May 22 at 9 am. Mr. Kelly and Tanis agreed to attend on behalf of the committee.

### **b. Financial Reports**

April 2015 financial reports were previously distributed to the committee via email from Laura Hill of the Finance Department. General discussion ensued on the reports. Note was made that the fund balances appear in good shape and projected revenues for 2015 are on track with budgeted expenses.

No significant questions were posed.

## **4. Old Business**

### **a. Wastewater disposal options**

Continued discussion from the past three meetings was conducted regarding the various cost and technical scenarios presented by Wright Pierce and Underwood Engineers. A final report by Arcadis Engineers on behalf of the City of Portsmouth indicates the cost of the Pease Facility upgrade is significantly higher than either they or the Towns of Exeter and Stratham anticipated. Estimates as high as \$130M were noted in some options. Mr. Kelly noted that our internal analysis by Underwood last Spring had that upgrade more in the \$30-50M range.

Russ Dean had indicated to Mr. Kelly prior to the meeting that he had viewed a stream of the Portsmouth City Council meeting in late April where Arcadis presented their findings. He noted that the Council was not inclined to spend this kind of money where they were already 40% into an \$80M redesign of the Peirce Island facility. Given the higher than anticipated Pease costs for both Portsmouth and, presumably Exeter and Stratham, as well as the higher costs for the conveyance to Pease as presented by Underwood Engineers in January, the committee's consensus was that we should concentrate on optimizing the design of our own facility and cease spending our consultant's time and money towards the regional/Portsmouth option. The committee's consensus was also to pursue all options towards reducing future rates including continuing discussions with Stratham as well as the TIF district on Epping Road.

### **b. Water Sales Agreement with Town of Stratham**

Mr. Kelly attended a Board of Selectmen meeting on May 4 whereby the board approved a draft template of terms for proceeding ahead on securing this revenue stream for the utility.

### **c. Rate Consultant update**

Mr. Kelly noted that four consultants responded to our RFQ. A subcommittee of Public Works staff, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Kelly would be reviewing the packages submitted and making a recommendation in the near future.

**5. Other Business**

There was no other business brought before the Committee.

**6. Committee Calendar**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Nowak Room at the Town Offices.

The preliminary agenda will include abatement requests, Rate Study consultants review, and a final discussion of the wastewater disposal and cost options from the Wright Pierce design report.

Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Kelly  
Recording Secretary pro tem