

Exeter Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

Final Meeting Minutes

July 8, 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, and Jim Tanis.

2. Abatements

There were no abatement requests for this meeting.

3. New Business

a. Utility Services Group

Utility Services Group had previously been contracted by the town for a water tank maintenance program for the Hampton Road tank beginning in 2014. The company was invited to speak to the Committee by Mike Jeffers to discuss our on-going issues with Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) as well as a similar maintenance program for the Epping Road tank.

Mike Polster and Scott Kelley of USG presented a multi-point plan for dealing with TTHMs, similar to many of their 40 projects worldwide currently in place. A handout was distributed that outlined both on-going maintenance efforts as well as a phased, 10 year program for the Epping Road tank complete with budget numbers. The general plan is called an Asset Management Plan and would aim to develop required work over the next 10 years that would keep the tank structurally sound as well as keep our drinking water in compliance with federal standards. The Hampton Road tank was recently sand blasted and re-painted at a higher cost than if a similar maintenance program was instituted earlier in the life cycle, according to the USG representatives. As of now, the 2007 Epping Rd. tank is in good shape with only power washing required at this point. Re-painting would probably not be required until the early 2020s.

The Committee had previously recommended to the Board of Selectmen to proceed on the Hampton Road tank project and said they would review this proposal and provide similar input to the BOS on the Epping Road project.

4. Regular Business

a. Projects Update

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

Mr. Jeffers was not in attendance due to a family emergency. A summary of on-going work by the Department will be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

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 somewhat behind due to some equipment startup problems. There did not seem to be a cause for concern, however, the current phased start up of the GWTP is going to be more like mid to late fall.

Mr. Tanis estimated that the construction is currently about 75-80% complete.

iii. Discussion on Wastewater Treatment Plant Preliminary Design options

Mr. Kelly referenced a series of meetings, memoranda, technical assessments and financing options reviewed by representatives of the WSAC, DPW, and the BOS over the past few months. At this point, the Recommended Plan (so called Option 3 in the Wright Pierce Preliminary Design Report) was slightly modified by the working group noted above to include an Option 6 whereby Option 3 would be phased in over 10 years, potentially saving the town as much as \$4 million in capital costs as well as several hundred thousand dollars a year in O&M costs. Details of Option 6 were distributed to the Committee and discussed thereof.

Since several members of the Committee were not in attendance, Mr. Kelly took a consensus of the group for their opinions. The WSAC members in attendance were unanimous in their approval of Option 6 and the potential cost savings attributed to it.

b. Financial Reports

June 2015 financial reports were previously distributed to the committee via email from Laura (Hill) Zogopolous of the Finance Department. General discussion ensued on the reports. Note was made that the fund balances appear to have started a downward slope due to projected revenues for 2015 slightly behind budgeted expenses. Expenses due to project debt service and added testing requirements also increased dramatically over the past two years.

No significant questions were posed.

5. Old Business

a. Rate Consultant update

Mr. Kelly noted that out of four consultants responding to our RFQ earlier this year, DPW has selected *Municipal and Financial Services Group* to conduct our rate and impact fee study. Jen Perry indicated to Mr. Kelly by previous email that she will be developing a contract and scope template for review over the next few months.

6. Other Business

Mr. Lambert extended congratulations to the DPW and Mr. Paul Roy, chief plant operator, on the Consumer Confidence Report recently mailed to all users of the town's water system regarding recent TTHM issues. He noted that the focus on water use education was conducted in a user friendly tone and will hopefully provide rate payers with critical information they may not get from news stories or regulatory documents.

There was no other business brought before the Committee.

7. Committee Calendar

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm in the Nowak Room at the Town Offices.

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

Mr. Kelly adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Robert Kelly
Recording Secretary pro tem