

FRANCONIA WATER DEPARTMENT
MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2016

The Franconia Water Commissioners met on December 21, 2016 at the Franconia Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Members present: Rich McLachlin, Marsha Graham and Ray Peltier
Also present: Joan Hartford and Pete Hilton from LRW

Marsha Graham officially resigned as a water commissioner after 11 years of service.

Joan Hartford was officially sworn in as an interim water commissioner. Her term will expire at the financial town meeting in March. She will have to be re-elected at that time for a 3 year term.

Approved the minutes of the October 12, 2016 meeting.

We discussed some of our expenses during the past year. Approximately \$100,000 was spent at the Mittersill site. Many feet of pipe and valves were installed, but these are below ground and do not show. When the ground thaws in the spring, we will begin digging again to install more pipe and valves. The interior of the storage tank was cleaned and the interior tank walls were coated. An air operated mixing system was installed and is currently in use. Next spring the exterior of the Mittersill tank will be cleaned and coated at a cost of ~\$20,000. Five trees surrounding the tank will have to be removed at a cost of \$25,000. We are also looking at replacing the ladder along the side of the tank that deteriorated several years ago. Electric heaters have been installed in the pump house.

Scott Leslie will be invited to one of our meetings to discuss his schedule for road resurfacing at Mittersill. We don't want to dig up a newly resurfaced road.

In the spring/summer, we will directionally drill under Main Street at the old Dairy Bar and install an 8 inch pipe.

A sanitary survey was conducted at the Franconia village site.
Installation of new water meters will be scheduled.

We then addressed the water meter rental charge and the water rates. At the October meeting the commercial customers made us aware that they were paying an exorbitant fee for their meters as compared to the residential customers. They also pointed out that they would rather see an increase in the water use rate and a lowering of the meter rental rate.

We decided to remove the rental classification of residential, commercial and non-profit. Customer's meter rental charge will be based on the size of the meter only. The water use rate will also be increased in order to make up the lost revenue. At this time, information concerning the exact number and size of meters in the village and at Mittersill has not been made available to the water commissioners. Also information concerning the actual number of gallons of water that are sold each quarter has not been made available to the water commissioners.

We have paid an activation fee to Badger to allow complete electronic reading and billing. Along with that activation, there is a monthly fee of \$0.87 per month per account. The water rates will be raised \$0.20 per 100 gallons.

Beginning in January the water commissioners will meet on the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM in the Town Hall. The April meeting will be open to all water users in Franconia.

The schedule of meetings for the first quarter of 2017:

January 11th
February 8th
March 8th
April 12th Open meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM