

# **Franconia Water Department Meeting**

**Thursday September 10, 2020**

**Franconia Town Hall 5pm**

**In Attendance:** Water Commissioners Darrel Dietlein, Dan Walker, & Kevin Johnson; Sandy Kellogg, Water Department Office Administrator, Peter Hilton, LRW Water Services, George Carroll, Mittersill resident & treasurer, Mittersill Association Chalet Owners (MACO)

Darrel motions to open the meeting at 5 pm. Dan seconds and the meeting begins.

Darrel thanks Commissioners and Pete for finalizing plans & making decisions to keep the Mittersill Project moving forward while he was away.

## **Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:**

Motion to accept the minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup> 2020 meetings with one typographical correction is made by Darrel, seconded by Dan, and approved unanimously.

## **Approval of Abatement:**

Motion to approve and sign the following abatement request is made by Darrel, seconded by Dan, and approved unanimously.

**Owner: Town of Franconia – WARMING HUT/ICE RINK**

**Acct: #457                      Map 14/01**

We have abated the amount of \$800.00 for the principal amount billed to the Town for the Ice Rink water meter. This amount is the base meter fee to be waived and as agreed upon by the commissioners the Ice Rink will only pay usage amounts until 2021 billings.

## **Approval of Resolution:**

Motion to approve the following resolution was made by Dan, seconded by Kevin, and approved unanimously.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman of the Board, Darrel Dietlein be, and hereby is individually authorized to submit the application, and sign all forms, associated with the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund Grant Program, to receive up to \$390,000 of DWGTF grant funding for the Franconia Main Street Water Project Phase II serving the northern portion of Main Street including water main replacement and service connections, and to take other actions as needed to apply for and accept any such funding that is awarded.”

Darrel welcomed George Carroll, MACO treasurer to the meeting. George shares that he has been appreciative of renewed communication between FWD & MACO. He is attending the meeting looking for further updates on the 2020 Mittersill Project, the Mittersill Treatment Plan, and then may have some additional questions after listening to the Mittersill Updates. Introductions were made and the meeting continued.

## **2020 Mittersill Project Update:**

Pete reported that LRW had finished today, installing all anticipated water main for this project. They have just a bit of clean up to finish tomorrow. They completed water main replacement from the

intersection of Hubertus Ring & Pioneer Road, then moved out to Mittersill Road and tied into the 8" main there. Then moved down to the intersection of Pioneer & Sunset Ridge Rd, installed a bank of valves so that they are now better able to isolate & control water flow, then began replacing the water main. Unfortunately a few homes were left without water overnight for one evening. LRW was unaware of this until the next day, when this was corrected. With the installation of the new valves, LRW will be better able to target any needed repairs and limit the interruption of water service to just a few homes on Sunset Ridge, Hubertus Ring, & Pioneer. This is a great improvement to the system. LRW had been asked originally to raise the valves and now the Town has decided to grind ahead of the paving and want LRW to lower them. Pete will lower as many as possible. They were also able to add a blow-off at the end of Sunset Ridge which will help with flushing. Most of galvanized piping has now been replaced, with just from behind old ski house to valve in the middle of Sunset Ridge Rd remaining. They ran into a few unexpected leaks, some ledge work, and other challenges; we should expect to see these extras in the final bill.

George asked for clarification on why FWD chose to do this portion of work, confirming that it had been dictated by the pending fall paving project of the Town of Franconia. Pete said yes and that Town had changed their plans for paving and FWD had to respond accordingly. Unfortunately LRW couldn't get everything done due to short notice, but all work completed was important and necessary. George then asked for clarification on plans for roads/homes beyond the old ski shop. Darrel shared that the Commissioners hope to upgrade the entirety of galvanized pipe, but that funding will dictate the scope and timing. When final costs are in on this current project then Commissioners will reassess available funds and make plans for the remainder of this needed work in Mittersill. Darrel encouraged George to attend meetings and to stay abreast of plans by viewing meeting minutes posted on the website. Commissioners shared that they hope to return to the original plans for Mittersill and also to work more collaboratively with the Franconia Highway Department. George shared the appreciation of the MACO members on the timing and implementation of this unanticipated project.

Concerns about sediment in the water were discussed. Flushing is a challenge in this system and any disturbance will cause sediment to run through the water. Darrel asked George to share with MACO about disturbance of sediment and the need for flushing, if/when possible. The problem is getting enough water to flow for a proper flushing, as is only a 2" pipe. The need is to get all of the galvanized pipe replaced.

#### **Mittersill Treatment Plan:**

George asked about the Lead situation. Pete shared that the most recent randomized testing had indicated lead in exceedance of State standards and that we are currently working on the implementation of the treatment plan. The plan has recently been approved by NHDES, supplies have been ordered, and treatment will begin as soon as they arrive.

Darrel shared his experience in this area. Unless the Water Distribution System is using copper with lead sweat fittings, it is typically not the source of the lead contamination. It is more likely that the contamination is from fixtures within the homes. Darrel suggested that George share this with the chalet owners and encourage them to gradually work to upgrade their faucets and other fixtures. The challenge with current sampling was discussed and George thought that MACO could help with this.

Commissioners also encourage chalet owners to have their own water tested, especially if they know they have older fixtures.

### **NHDOT / Town Meeting 2021 Main Street re-pavement**

Sandy shared that Kim Cowles, Town Administrator was going to be having a meeting with NHDOT and Town/Highway Department to discuss plans for a 2021 Main St re-pavement project. Kim wanted FWD to be aware of the project and the meeting. She thought FWD might wish to take advantage of the road being torn up in order to lay some pipe in anticipation of future work. Commissioners were very appreciative of the opportunity to be included, but don't see this project as feasible at this time. Sandy will keep Commissioners informed as to the project and timeline.

### **Digitization of Old Water System Maps**

Kevin shared his work on getting the FWD map "collection" digitized. Kevin recommended that we move forward with this project. The price from Staples is \$2 per page and Kevin made a motion to add a \$100 line item to the 2021 Budget. Darrel suggested we up the amount to \$200. Dan & Darrel agreed that this is a very worthwhile project that shouldn't have to wait for 2021. Darrel also suggested that we find a way to standardize the name of each map to make them more useable.

**Approval of Motion:** Kevin made a motion to fund the map digitization project in the amount of \$200 to be completed as soon as possible. Seconded by Darrel and approved unanimously. Kevin will retrieve the plans from the Pump Station and get this project completed.

### **Drought Discussion**

Darrel wanted to discuss the current situation which the State has reported a severe. Pete agreed and suggested that FWD implement an outdoor water ban for all of its customers. Sandy will put together a draft of the notice and get it out to commissioners for their approval. Also discussed how to get the notice to the customers; USPS is slow and costly, decided to utilize email, Town website, and social media. How do we regulate this? Will we implement penalties, what recourse do we have?

### **Updates from Sandy**

- W03 Billing - Meaghan came and helped with the billing that just went out. All went smoothly.
- Service Visit - Stiles will be coming on 9/17. Fourteen issues have been identified and appointments have been scheduled for nine of them at this time. Hopefully will be able to add 3 backflow issue appointments to the list. Stiles Rep will also be spending time with me in the office for some computer training. Commissioners agreed to this visit.
- Meter Replacements – NE Backflow successfully replaced the meters at Best Western, Alpine Clinic, and Franconia Market. Still need to get Mittersill Inn meter replaced and that is in the works.
- 40 Harvard St – Paul from NE Backflow was able to install a temporary meter. A new meter and endpoint will be installed on 9/17 when Stiles is here.
- NE Backflow – They are interested in making a proposal for backflow testing as mandated by State, though at the customers expense as it is the customer who is responsible for this testing.
- Payette Request – Phil Payette at 81 Lafayette asked if he could have the water turned off at curb stop as it will likely be a year or so until they are able to move back there. Pete will locate and Sandy will confirm.

- Does FWD want to have a Social Media presence? Did FWD want to pursue this avenue of encouraging communication? Kevin already has a community page.
- Pete asked if new meter installs were up and communicating with Beacon yet. Sandy will be working with Dave from Avitar to upload these new accounts to Beacon on Monday.

### **Possible Leak(s)**

Pete shared that over 30,000 gallons a day are unaccounted for in the system. Pete is trying to determine if a leak is likely and if so where could it be and how best to locate it.

Darrel asked if we keep track of pipes when they are found so that information is gathered, properly recorded, and kept updated. Pete indicated that he does.

Pete's maps list properties via map/lot numbers rather than street addresses, this makes things additionally challenging for Pete. A future project could be to update these.

### **FSC Lodge**

Pete relayed that it looks like things are moving forward with the construction of the lodge. If so, they will be looking to tie into the main. Darrel could not recall hearing back from them regarding the contingencies of the application approval. These included contacting Lois at Mittersill to see about utilizing the pond for fire suppression and also approval from the Franconia Fire Department. Sandy will reach out to Thad for an update on status of dry hydrant use with Lois & Fire Department.

### **Tank Cleaning**

Dan presented quotes for Tank Cleaning & Inspections:

- Underwater Solutions: To clean & inspect is estimated at \$4,000, inspection only is \$3,500. The quote for the roof cleaning & coating is \$9,990
- DN Tanks: They will need to review and redo their quote, but it looks like roof cleaning & coating is \$9,995

This information is for our 2021 budget work.

Motion made by Darrel to adjourn at 6:55pm and seconded by Dan.

