

Franconia Water Department Meeting

Thursday July 14, 2022

Town Hall 5pm

In Attendance: Water Commissioner Kevin Johnson. Water Department Administrator, Rachel Pluchino. Pete Hilton representing Lakes Region Water. Scott Clang, Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA) and Chief Rick Gaudette, Franconia Fire Chief. Water Commissioner, Jeff Bartlett, arrived at 6pm. Meeting was not officially called to order, as there was only 1 commissioner present.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve May Minutes made by Tom, seconded by Jeff and approved unanimously.

Approval of YTD Financial:

No Motion made at this time.

Pete Hilton:

Monthly testing review per State Mandated reporting

Flushing – does not fall under regular maintenance, it is a separate charge. An over payment was made for Spring flushing. Rachel will contact LRW about a refund.

Fire Hydrant decommissioning may potentially start in August.

Mittersill Fire Station – debris and fill w/ asphalt. Needs to be hauled out of there. Pete will look into having it removed. Rachel will price out alternative contractors for removal as well.

Rachel Update:

No update at this time.

Mittersill Fire Station:

Firewood belongs to Ken King. Per Jeff, Ken spoke with Jeremy about leaving wood there. Ken will have it removed by end of week.

25-year lease with State of NH in regards to Fire House. FWD does have valued interest in property as the well is within 200 feet of building and the equipment to run well is housed in Fire House. This makes the area critical to providing water to consumer and maintaining the functionality of the nearby well. Lease expires in April 3, 2032. Rachel will draft a letter to TOF in regards to continued use of aforementioned areas.

Fox Hill:

FWD has interest in whether or not line coming in from Harvard Street. The plans for the upgrade have been approved and there will be a site meeting on July 19th, with bidding on July 28th.

FWD has a meter pit and valve within the park.

ARPA:

Discussion to continue at July meeting.

Security of Pump Houses:

Discussion of possible key pad or additional security measures for access to FWD sites.

Discussion to be continued at July meeting.

Decommissioning of Fire Hydrants:

Decommissioning of 3 fire hydrants at end of Academy Street (Dow Extension), Best Western and in front of Lafayette Center (Magnolia Healthcare.). There are 5 hydrants in total that need to be removed and capped. Discussion to continue at July meeting.

FWD would like documentation supporting the decommissioning of 5 fire hydrants throughout Franconia. Chief Guadette will be speaking with Kim in regards to a letter from Fire Department in support of the decommissioning of hydrants. Scott Clang (GSRWA) will begin the process of surveying the hydrants to gather more information. Scott is retiring so he will be passing the project to Dale Curtis.

Chief Guadette stated the Fire Department utilizes stored water and the Gale River as their water source. Reiterated the water system does not have adequate pressure for hydrants to be utilized in the case of a fire. Fire Department has never used the hydrants or trained to use the hydrants in past 30 years. 90% of town is not on hydrant line. Only hydrant FD uses is the one in front of station. It is only used to refill after a fire has been put out.

Chief Guadette stated the dry hydrant in Mittersill is getting installed. It is along the edge of road. Pete expressed concern for the area where the dry hydrant will be installed. There are possible live waterlines in that area. Pete will mark areas that are known but suggested they tread lightly through the area as there may be some unknown active lines. Pete will review the maps regarding Mittersill to see if there is any valuable info regarding original infrastructure.

Garnet Hill/Main Street Project:

Discussion moved to July Meeting.

Main Street Valve Installation:

Discussion will be continued at July meeting. Reference: Garnet Hill

Motion made by Kevin to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm and seconded by Jeff.

Approved unanimously.