

Franconia Water Department Monthly Meeting

Thursday September 13, 2018

In Attendance: Water Commissioners Joan Hartford and Darrel Dietlein; Pete Hilton, Lakes Region Water; Meaghan Caron, Water Department Secretary

Public In Attendance: Jeff Bartlett from 34A Sunset Ridge Road, Deane Haskell from Hillwinds Lodge, Kevin Johnson, Gale River Motel

Meeting Began at 4pm.

Kevin Johnson: Refers to RTK letter he sent on August 13th. Kevin asks for a definition of what "Commercial" means for the water rates. Darrel explains that we are currently in the process of working with an outside source to get a better determination and assessment of our system and our rates. Kevin asks what is the relative to the "now" billing definition is. Kevin refers to rates from 2013 having 3 categories: Commercial, Residential and Non-Profit and that his properties at 9 Main Street and his home were both categorized at Residential compared to the current categorization of Commercial. What is the definition of commercial business, Kevin asks. What is the systemic methodology that the water department used to define residential vs. commercial? Kevin references multiple properties that he cites as residential but that should be listed as commercial. He would like a copy of the Work Session minutes from January 31, 2018 that he can't find on the website. He states that historically, meetings have not been held according to RSA 91A. Kevin argues that rates for Commercial customers rates that were changed were not properly voted upon and should be retroactive to prior to rate increase and refunded until assessed by the outside source. Both Darrel and Kevin communicate that hopes are high for the department to be moving forward and proactively addressing these issues.

Mr. Haskell interjects and says that he was here two years ago when the commission voted to lower the rates. States that his bills have cost him upwards of \$10,000 this year, most of that amount agreed to be usage, but still more than he agrees to be fair.

Jeff Bartlett: 34A Ridge Road.

*****Mr. Bartlett would like Meeting minutes from 8/9 to reflect that he provided to the water department numerous photos and videos of damage to his home. These were provided prior to the 8/9 meeting at Meaghan's request. Darrel and Mr. Bartlett discussed the replacement of the word "housing" with "fitting" as the proper term regarding the stainless steel replacement piece used by Presby for repair. He also would like it to be noted that his last day in the house had been April 15, 2018 at which time there was no flooding.*****

Mr. Bartlett says that there were no instances of frost during the time between when he left 4/15 and the time of the incident. He researched frost records and says in his opinion there was no way that frost could have caused this problem. Presby cannot come until January to do any

work. All contracting is difficult to do while living in CT. His request to the water commission is to accept responsibility for the situation that occurred. He suggests that there could have been thousands of gallons a day flooding his home during the period between 6/24 and 7/24. He has a homeowners claim in motion. He travels up to NH weekly to meet with contractors and states that he shouldn't have to pay any money for the home repairs. He states that 58 years with the pipe and fitting and nothing ever happened and that he finds it uncanny that the street had been dug up and worked on in the weeks prior and then his home was flooded. His home is gutted and a disaster

Darrel speaks of frost not being just what on top of the ground, rather it goes deep into the ground. He states how warm spring weather periods after a hard winter frost can cause heaves of the ground and that he is not saying that the frost is necessarily what caused the situation but that after 58 years of a nylon fitting on the pipes [Mr. Bartlett] is lucky that it hadn't failed 20 years ago and that the likely hood that frost being the culprit is very high. Joan suggests that the insurance adjustor would make that decision. Furthermore, on all public water systems, the standard is that anything that goes prior to the meter up to a supply point is supposed to be sustainable under work conditions at the street. With that condition not being met we cannot affirmatively say what caused or did not cause the leak. A burden of proof resides on Mr. Bartlett to prove that the work on the curb stop was the cause of the damage.

Mr. Johnson asks if the commissioners think there is a possibility that the work caused his leak. Joan responds that it would be up to the insurance adjuster to determine the cause. Mr. Bartlett says he is most concerned with having his claim honored and his house put back together and that it is up to a court to decide. In Mr. Bartlett's opinion there is absolutely a possibility that LRW pulled the line.

Darrel asks for an air of civility through all of the processes regardless of being in the room in the meeting forum or if it is just Meaghan in the office. He asks to be able to rely on Mr. Bartlett maintain this civility.

Jeff asks for timeline for the road to be fixed in front of his house. Pete says it will be a couple weeks before it will be cleaned up and paved.

Darrel reads a letter that he has on file, it is a resignation letter from Richard McLachlin effective immediately. We each received a copy. We are sad to see him go. He is a wealth of historical information on the water system and we hope to be able to rely on him for input and understanding as we move forward into the future. We will appoint someone for the remainder of his term until election time on March of 2019. Homework is to come up with some possible candidates.

Stephen St. Cyr: Meg has sent historical rates, usage, budget information to him. He is working on an engagement letter to get to us. Meg will look for old engineers rates and fees to get to Joan and Darrel. We are hopeful that Mr. St. Cyr could join us before the next monthly meeting.

A discussion begins regarding the time constraints Meaghan has to get her necessary work done during her budgeted 15 hours a week. Many items in her work load have been put on the back burner due to other demands by the public. Kevin refers to RSA:91A in regards to being open to the public and the office hours when Meaghan is here.

Mr. Haskell leaves at 5pm and asks to be notified when the next meeting is.

Reminder to Pete that water is scheduled for shut off at 8am on September 18, 2018 for Newell property as they have a plumber coming in to replace a main house valve.

Monthly meeting to be changed to 4:30pm the second Thursday of each month. Motion to change made by Darrel. Joan seconds the motion. Vote is made to change the meeting times to 4:30 the second Thursday of each month.

Next Monthly meeting will be Wednesday October 10th at 4:30pm. Motion made to change by Joan and seconded by Darrel.

Joan agrees to go to Bill Cashin's home on October 26th with Chris Sparks so that Chris can replace a valve inside the home. Pete says time frame should be first thing in the morning.

72 Woodchuck Trail--Ferraro Property Water: Mrs. Ferraro has complained of brown water in the past, and most recently with her visit in August. At that time Pete promptly flushed the hydrant nearest to her home. Pete thinks it is an end of the line and settling issue as they are rarely there at the property. Darrel suggest every three months. Meg will call Mrs. Ferraro to find out when the next time the family will be up so we can see if there is a difference. Jan, April, July Oct will be flushing times. We want to know the condition of her water the next time she visits.

Work Updates from Pete Hilton:

Alpine Clinic—Crushed stone in meter pit is the best option. 151 cubic feet = 6 cubic yards total Of $\frac{3}{4}$ " stone needed to fill the pit to height needed. Vote to approve made by Darrel seconded by Joan.

Mittersill project is done for now. Patching some areas still needed. Meg to expect a bill from Bethlehem Earthworks for road materials.

Leak on Coal Hill road in front of Jenkins home (144 Coal Hill Road) will be addressed next week.

Pete to schedule flushing for October. Meg will post and advertise when Pete decides on dates

Repair of hydrant on Main Street will be soon. We have a hydrant if necessary otherwise it will be fixed accordingly.

Ice Rink building still needs a meter. Only ever used for filling the ice rink. It's a small hydrant that Rec connects a hose to to fill the rink in the winter. Darrel would like to wait until Stephen St. Cyr comes to assess before deciding on this situation.

Both Heaters need to have annual service at the Franconia pump station. Meg to Call Stiles Fuel to schedule this appointment and give them Darrel's number to discuss the mouse situation.

Stiles CO: Meg to confirm with Ian (Badger Meter) about billing and what we have returned, what we have been billed for and what we have in use. She is working on a spreadsheet to show the total numbers paid out compared to what we have in use on the Beacon/Badger meter system. How many endpoints are we being billed for? Cross check what we have in use. Pete has changed out endpoints on some and therefore we want to be sure we aren't being charged for the ones that have been unprovisioned. We should be only paying for 309.

Bench Top tester at the Franconia Pump Station, Pete is having problems with it. Darrel wonders if it has been calibrated. Pete regularly calibrates it. Pete suggests having a manual testing device that he can use when he is flushing or just out in the field. Approx cost for this type of device is \$4000.00. Pete to get specifications on the current PH meter that is on the system currently and what the cost would be for a new one. Cost of new probe and calibration of current unit vs new field unit.

Leak detection. Pete suggests having someone come in to do this. LRW is looking into a listening device system that checks for leaks. Darrel will look into costs to join Granite State Rural Water Association. They provide free rudimentary leak searches and guidance. This could be a wise investment and a valuable partnership.

We have to get the line under Garnett Hill Fixed. This is a HUGE project. It routes behind Mac's and all the way down and under the GH building. It is an 8" water main. Pete says contact Horizon Engineering for this and for Mittersill.

Water departments often charge Towns for hydrants a flat fee for each hydrant. This is something to look into. There are a couple hydrants that need to be replaced as well. They work but will likely need to be bagged for the winter.

Darrel speaks of generating a mission statement to further define the Organizational goals of the department. He had emailed Meaghan a few suggestions and would like for us to have a draft to work on and an official discussion at the next meeting in regards to solidifying a statement.

Darrel motions to limit public comment time limit to 5 minutes and then we can add in five minute time increments. We would like to get to a point where we can get work done during our meetings in a reasonable amount of time. Joan seconds the motion.

Meeting Minutes from 8/9/18 and 8/22/18 were approved with a few adjustments to be noted in the 8/9/18 minutes and written in these minutes.

Darrel questions who has (AHJ) Authority Having Jurisdictions for inspecting new septic systems. Who is the person in Franconia that holds this role? This is in regards to the septic system we had Presby change the plans on. Meg will follow up with Presby in regards to this project and how it is moving along.

Joan and Darrel signed the agreement letter to Ken King regarding testing his meter at 955 Profile Road.

Meg and Darrel will be attending the RTK workshop in Concord on September 28th.

Discussion had on trying to budget for more hours for Meaghan's position in the future. She could easily fill 20 hours a week with her workload.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:04pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Meaghan Caron

Administrative Secretary

These minutes of the Franconia Water Department have been recorded by its Secretary. Though believed to be accurate and correct they are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Board of Commissioners of the Water Department at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.