

Franconia Water Department Monthly Meeting

Thursday November 14, 2019

Town Hall Meeting Room 4:30pm

In Attendance: Water Commissioners Joan Hartford and Dan Walker; Meaghan Caron, Water Department Secretary; Peter Hilton, LRW

Public in Attendance: Cathy Conway, Horizons Engineers

Dan opens the meeting at 4:30pm

Cathy Conway has joined us from Horizons Engineering to give an update on the plans moving forward with the Main Street project. The current project proposal that they are working on for the Water Department includes rerouting the Main line from behind the small buildings on the Northwest side of Main Street to the roadside and inserting new service lines to each building. Also included are the plans for redirecting the lines from underneath Garnet Hill and replacing the line that runs under the brook to Lafayette school. They have put project plans together based off of the as-built plans that we provided. Beyond the brook and Garnet Hill there exists an older main that feeds Lafayette School, the AHEAD apartment building and the nursing home. It would make sense to continue the project and replace the existing 4" line that feeds these high demand customers. Cathy believes we could apply to the Northern Border Regional Commission for a 50% grant, because this project is about economic improvement. We could apply to NBRC for up to \$500,000 for infrastructure projects related to improvement and economic development. The current 4" line doesn't meet the standard and the nursing home is a special population and therefore we could also apply for community development block granting. For an additional \$1500 Horizons Engineering could do more field surveys to complete up to the nursing home and therefore be set up for applications for grant funding in the spring. The additional cost would cover Horizons assistance in applying for the grants. Because Darrel is not at this meeting we let Cathy know that we will provide Darrel with all of the information and get back to her regarding our decision.

Minutes from meetings are reviewed and approved motions by Dan and seconded by Joan.

Transaction sheet and Meaghan's time sheet are approved and signed.

Hydrant Fees—there are 28 hydrants in Franconia, 4 in Mittersill and one private hydrant at Alpine Clinic. Just to gauge what would need to be recovered, the cost of one new hydrant and installation is roughly \$3483.00. To start, and to vote upon at our next meeting, \$300 per hydrant annually will be charged to the Town of Franconia for Hydrant maintenance, replacement, future removal etc. This fee will be added to the trimester bills totaling \$100.00 per trimester per hydrant. A yet to be determined fee will also be applied to the Alpine Clinic account for their hydrant for water demand and availability. We do not maintain this hydrant.

Final Read fee -- \$50 per final read to cover administrative costs. This is a common fee billed out to Real Estate agents that we have never charged before. Meg will draft a letter to be sent to local Real Estate agents stating that there will be a new fee going into place. Joan motions to impose the \$50 final read fee for water billings for real estate transactions beginning 1/1/2020. Dan seconds, all are in favor.

Sprinkler system fees—We have to be prepared for the potential for a system to need the water and put the demand on the system. A fee would possibly be placed on businesses that have a separate line for their system. Some have sprinkler systems that are run off of their domestic lines and therefore the water is metered. No fee would be applied to customers whose sprinkler system runs off of their domestic line, only to customers whose fire suppression system runs off of a separate line into the building. Meg and Dan will make appointments with customers for after Christmas to visit their buildings and confirm what type of system is installed and where it feeds from. We will continue to research this option and possibly vote for this fee to become active in the future upon presentation to our customers.

The thermostat in the Mittersill Pump house was corroded due to chlorine and chemicals in the air. It was replaced but we will also budget for a better sealed and protected thermostat in next year's budget. This will be approximately \$350.

Still no report yet back from the tank cleaning. Pete expects to receive it in the next couple of weeks.

Sanitary Survey went well.

Pete requests that we start budgeting for the new Reporting system and distribution meter for when the water leaves the pump station so that we can better track what is being distributed to our customers. We can currently monitor our overall usage via Beacon and the meter readings, but with a distribution meter at the pump house we could better track any leaks in the system. We should look into leak detection grants to apply for in 2021.

Fire department line – This service line needs to be fixed so as to properly prevent freezing in the winters. Meg to talk to Holly regarding this project. When the building was built it was agreed upon that it was the only building on the line coming across the road from Plantation Road so it is their service line and their responsibility. There has been a lot of work done on this line by the water department to keep this line from freezing and to fix parts that have frozen in the past. The town needs to replace this line across the road from the curb-stop on Plantation Road to the valve at the Fire Station.

Fox Hill bleeder needs to be addressed. They run a bleeder to keep their system from freezing but there is a lot of water being wasted. The property is currently being sold.

There is another well in Mittersill that we can possibly tap into but it would need to be properly tested.

Scheduling a Budget Work Session--Tuesday the 3rd for a work session 5:30 OR Thursday the 5th. Meg to email Darrel to confirm which works best for him and then email everyone to confirm the final date.

Our next regularly scheduled monthly meeting is December 12th at 4:30pm.

With no further business to attend to, Joan makes a motion to adjourn. Dan seconds and all are in favor. Meeting ends at 5:56pm.

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.