



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION ~ MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Conference Room – 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Monday, April 20, 2009**
Meeting Time: **6:00 PM**

Members Present: Chairman Gary Green, Jay Stephens, Marty Coyle, Ed Spuler, Alternate Ted Mortner

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Michael Earley, Otis Perry, Mark Moeller

Staff Present: Bill Boulanger, Utility Systems Supervisor, Shari Bullen, DUC Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 9, 2009 should be labeled March instead of February. In the last paragraph, dwelling units should be bedrooms in the 4th to the last sentence where State units are referenced.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to accept the March 9, 2009 minutes, as amended.

Second: Coyle seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 2009.

Second: Coyle seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

The minutes of March 16, 2009 have a typo in Earley's name on page 2 and on page 4 the word impervious should be pervious.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to accept the minutes of March 16, 2009.

Second: Coyle seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

The minutes of March 30, 2009 should read 'recommended' for 60-80psi, not normal. Also the 31.5psi is still within the minimum. Staff will review tape to get correct verbiage.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to accept the March 30, 2009 minutes, as amended.

Second: Mortner seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

4. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Green felt the term Rate Payer should be used instead of citizen. Stephens thought User's Forum would be an appropriate title. Coyle liked Rate Payer better. Citizen's Forum was opened and closed as there was no one present to speak.

5. ABATEMENT REQUESTS

There were no abatements requests.

6. REPORTS

A. Abatement Review Team Report

There are 4 abatement requests pending. The Abatement Review Team will meet next week. Any abatement requests to the DUC which might result will be scheduled to go before the DUC in June as the May meeting will be held offsite. No interest is charged therefore this will not impact the customer other than to delay the hearing.

B. Utilities Report

Stephens questioned the root treatment process and Boulanger explained the use of this treatment and the associated one-year warranty on treated lines. This treatment is in place of root cutting in the lines. It adheres to the pipes so there is no fear of it leaching out. It's a safer product and we can only treat 3000' per day so we don't affect the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Stephens then asked why Sewer was laying telecom conduit. Boulanger said we didn't do this when we first did the McConnell Center/Library. Green asked who paid for this work and Boulanger answered that IT paid for the materials. The Utilities Department paid for the labor since it was a Community Services project. Stephens asked if snow plowing is under the Utilities budget. Boulanger answered yes, for straight time, not overtime. Stephens felt none of it should be under Utilities. Green said he would look into this further.

Green handed out an article entitled Water Board Mulls Dover Cooperation on Scrap Yard. Green is concerned about MbTE or Dioxin contamination. Boulanger said the Griffin Well was off but it is back online now and being monitored. The sampling wells are being monitored frequently also. Green asked that this be included in the Utilities Report. Boulanger said he'd follow up with Peschel to include this information.

Boulanger added that the Cummings well is being cleaned.

Boulanger then presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the dead end flushing in the spring. He said the full system flush is done in the fall. Boulanger presented facts about the Dover system. He explained flushing is performed to remove sediment in the lines. Lack of flushing would eventually clog the pipes. Stephens added that pipes can be scraped out but Boulanger said this is complicated and can compromise the integrity of the pipe resulting in water breaks. We flush largest pipes to smallest and have used directional flushing since 1998. The Utilities Division receives less than 10 calls per year on water quality issues.

C. Finance Report

Green said the DUC was looking for more complete reports on a quarterly basis. He wants to see the fund balances.

Motion: Stephens made the motion to accept all reports.

Second: Spuler seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting is scheduled as a tour of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The new investment fees from Dan Lynch need to be voted on before Council can review. It was discussed that the new fees should be heard even though the meeting would be off site.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Green made a PowerPoint Presentation to the DUC about the North End Water Pressure project. He noted the Earth Tech study occurred and their report, dated October 2006, was presented to Council in November of 2006. It was also on the DUC Agenda for their December 2006 meeting. Green continued that the DUC recommended putting money into the CIP in

December of 2006. Their logic was that this land could always be used or sold. He then presented a copy of a letter from Jay Stephens to the Dover City Council dated December 29, 2006. In this letter, it was clear that the DUC was not included in options or recommendations for the 'perceived North End Water Pressure problems' but that they felt the land acquisition was appropriate.

He then explained that the water tower was next on the DUC Agenda in September of 2007. Members were to review the Earth Tech study and no vote was taken. Next, Rick Scarinka attended the May 19, 2008 meeting to address the use of booster pumps. Residential use of booster pumps is not allowed. Earth Tech then attended a meeting on March 30, 2009 where they presented an updated report where the use of booster pumps was eliminated. Elevations above 265' can't be serviced by the proposed water tower. The existing water tower can service elevations up to 220'. Green did not know the number of structures which exist between 220 and 265'.

The DUC recommended the following be in the CIP for the water tower:

- \$500,000.00 - 2010 Land Purchase
- \$500,000.00 – 2011 Design Phase
- \$4,000,000.00 – 2012 Construction
- \$1,600,000.00 – 2013 Completion

In a recent meeting with the City Manager, the water pressure issue was mentioned. Green states that the City Manager is now interested in using the tower for backup supply and questions whether this is needed.

Green states that Rick Scarinka of the DES hinted that interconnectivity may be mandated by Homeland Security. He also indicated, per the Woodard and Curran report dated January of 2006, this option could cost between \$910,000.00 and 2.45Million. Other expenses in the forecast are Wastewater Treatment Plant updates with a predicted cost of \$12,000,000.00.

Coyle asked if the interconnection was 'shovel ready' for stimulus money. Boulanger answered that it is not. Boulanger also noted that the politics of interconnection are difficult. Stephens said our water is the best and we could lose by interconnecting. During the 2008 ice storm our wells were down and we almost had to go to Somersworth for water. Boulanger says we need generators. Boulanger presented fire flows on a map of the north end region with affected users. PSI was shown at the hydrant and you'd lose some pressure from hydrant to house and from house to second floor you would lose even more. Not many areas are in the 60-80psi range. Greens says we need (besides the 35 minimum) to establish a psi we want. Boulanger showed the number of customers in the north end and asked for direction from the DUC for the desired pressure so he can pinpoint users not receiving the preferred pressure. Green says the State uses the Ten State Standard and keeps the 35psi minimum.

Stephens talked about the different types of water towers. We have a reservoir type tower currently in use on Garrison Hill. Stephens presented 2 models of towers; a standpipe and a reservoir model. They were both filled with water and his demonstration began with both models having what appeared to be identical pressure. After the water levels dropped in the models, the standpipe model begins to lose pressure where the reservoir didn't. The volume at the height maintained the pressure in the reservoir model. If the tank were being used for storage, we might select a different model than if it were being used for pressure. The reservoir tank is the more expensive tank. The Garrison Hill tank holds 4 million gallons. A smaller tank would also cut costs.

Mortner asked for the potential population growth in this area. Green said that based on the Woodard & Curran reports, the demand would level out in 2020. Stephens said someone needs to calculate how much growth is possible. It was also mentioned that we might need to interconnect on top of the tower. Boulanger asked whether the DUC wants to move forward or not. He feels it needs a vote. Green said the DUC needs to decide on a goal for pressure and decide if there is a different way to address the pressure. Stephens said the Earth Tech report does address alternative options but we need a more long-term solution. A booster station could help, short term but it is high maintenance. Coyle asked what the development is doing to demand and it was agreed the impact has been minimal. Green said the proposed water pressure area isn't specific enough and he believes this is a perceived problem. Green also felt a lot of the problem could be the individual service pipes that are old and too small. Boulanger said the pressure is the same as it was in 1950. Stephens feels everyone wants better. Boulanger asked for a vote. Boulanger doesn't feel we should purchase land unless we intend to move forward. Spuler wants to know how we got here. Stephens said the Earth Tec report was done by Council and not even approved by the DUC.

Boulanger clarified that Council went over their heads. Green said the report is bad and that Earth Tech gave the Council what they wanted to hear. Green continued that only 20 lots are affected. Boulanger said it's not the lots, but do we want to increase pressure to this zone. Green is looking for another alternative. Stephens said we need to get all members together and decide. Green said the DUC, at this time, is saying buy the land. He will put the topic on the June agenda.

9. AREAS OF CONCERN

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Stephens made the motion to adjourn.
Second: Coyle seconded the motion.
Vote: U/A.

Respectfully submitted, *Shari Bullen*, Dover Utilities Commission

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