



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION ~ MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: Conference Room – 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: **Monday, September 21, 2009**
Meeting Time: **6:00 PM**

Members Present: Chairman Gary Green, Vice-Chair Michael Earley, Marty Coyle, Otis Perry, Jay Stephens, Ed Spuler

Members Absent: Mark Moeller, Alternate Ted Mortner

Staff Present: Doug Steele, Community Services Director, Bill Boulanger, Superintendent of Public Works and Utilities, Shari Bullen, DUC Secretary, Dean Peschel, Environmental Projects Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 24, 2009 Minutes

Motion: Stephens made the motion to accept the minutes.

Second: Perry seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

Motion: Coyle made the motion to move Item 8B Willand Pond Update next on the agenda.

Second: Spuler seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

8. OLD BUSINESS

B. Willand Pond Update

Peschel explained that there were 8 respondents to the bid and 5 of the 8 were selected for interviews. Of the 5 interviewed, Emery and Garrett was selected. They were the most experienced. A PO has been issued to proceed with the first 2 tasks. The first task is to look at contaminant sources and the second task is to create a groundwater model to understand the available quantities of water.

Next steps were discussed in detail.

Perry asked about old well pumping quantities. Peschel answered that they do have this data. Perry expressed concern about pumping down the pond like before. Peschel said we are currently, and have been in a drought and the pond is very high. If the level fell too low it could impact the boat launch.

Green said we're spending about \$100,000.00 per year to find water including testing wells on Sixth Street. Stephens said there is a problem there with the water table and existing well. We are always looking for future water resources.

Stackpole, the property owner who is downstream from Willand Pond, is potentially interested in selling land to the City. There was some discussion of pumping off water over this land and Stephens was clear that Utilities wouldn't pay for that and he also stated that he'd prefer to use the well to rest others. It was also noted that the water quality in the Griffin Well has been consistent.

4. USER'S FORUM

User's Forum was opened and closed as there was no one present to speak.

5. ABATEMENT REQUESTS

6. REPORTS

A. Abatement Review Team

The report was discussed and some clarification provided by staff.

B. Utilities Report

The report was discussed.

C. Finance Reports

Earley began by stating sewer ran at a net loss last year unless you back out depreciation. The revenue under expenses was right on. Earley would like Lynch to come in and discuss how the DUC could be flagged if issues arise. Under the water section, he continued that it looked like a net loss without certain items being backed out. Earley stated we still don't have a report on cash flow.

Perry asked if we were accounting for reduced usage as people install water saving devices in their homes and use rain barrels for collecting water for irrigation. He also thought the DUC should consider a rebate for users taking these measures.

Green introduced the email from Dan Lynch dated September 4, 2009 to Green. Perry indicated the problem with reporting is not unique and he feels all commissions have similar issues. Steele oversees the budget and Lynch does the investigating. Lynch is also on the board of trustees.

Earley wanted to know which software package was being put into use. It was agreed that to report on investment fees collected would have to be a manual process. Boulanger stated that all investment fees go into the Capital Reserve. Perry said the DUC should decide what exactly they need to know and then ask Lynch if he can provide it. Green says we've done this and Lynch has said he can't provide the data. Steele said the next step then is to take the request to the City Manager.

Perry stated the investment fees in the City are the highest fees charged and that's why we have Wright Pierce looking at them to make sure they make sense. Earley wanted to know what was expected of the DUC in regard to financials. Code and the EPA expect the DUC to review for the rate payers. Earley felt the EPA should be contacted to give recommendations. Boulanger said he would look into it.

Steele continued with an Investment Fee update. Steele noted it had been a concern of the DUC that only PE's were working on the project. He approached Wright Pierce about adding an economist on board and they would be happy to do so; it would cost an extra \$1,000.00. Steele didn't recommend we pursue this as we can't afford it and Wright Pierce is more than qualified to complete the project. Perry said he respects their experience but feels an economist would add original thinking. Stephens agreed with Perry that an economist was needed in order to be protected from lawsuits. Steele clarified that Wright Pierce would only bring him in for a peer review. Green also felt it would bring additional credibility to the results.

Motion: Stephens made the recommendation to pay the extra \$1,000.00.

Second: Perry seconded the motion.
Vote: U/A.

7. NEW BUSINESS

CIP Update

Steele outlined the new projects added to the water portion of the CIP. He explained the North End Water Pressure Project costs had been update. In 2016, one million dollars was added to replace the water main on Main Street in downtown. \$100,000.00 was added for various water main replacement designs. Steele noted design prices have been exceptionally low so now is the time to design these future projects. Under sewer, \$100,000.00 was added to design sewer main replacements and \$160,000.00 was added to design sludge de-watering in 2011. In 2016 \$300-\$325,000.00 was added to replace the Leighton Way Pump Station and also in 2016 a Master Plan for Varney Brook as this has been online for approximately 30 years.

8. OLD BUSINESS

North End Water Pressure

Green began by stating he has spoken on this topic to the City Council, at Coffee with the Mayor and at the Ward 5 & 6 Discussion Series. Perry asked if Green was opposed to the tower in these discussions and Green answered that he'd given the facts. Green continued that he'd also defined a User's Forum where citizens could speak out and what he's gotten is 'silence'. Green wasn't going to support this project but will wait to decide until Steele has spoken.

Steele handed out amortization schedules for 2 scenarios where different amounts of the project were bonded showing the rate impact over 20 years. He continued that the entire cost of the project is significantly under budget from the original estimates. Earley stated that land acquisition was not included in the cost and neither was labor. It was then clarified that labor is included in the costs. Perry said that a contingency was missing. Steele indicated the land was budgeted separately and that there is a huge contingency, approximately 40%.

Perry would like to bond the full cost of the project and keep the CIP funds for contingency. Green said we've been adding to the CIP every year. Perry said 2 million would deplete it too much. Perry asked Green what he wants to see happen tonight. Earley said he sees it as two things; one, do we approve the proposal and two, how do we finance it. Perry said we should talk about the benefits.

Motion: Perry made a motion to approve the AECOM findings and to recommend 60psi at the street in the north end at 4.5 million dollars to be funded out of the CIP.

Second: Stephens seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued with each member weighing in on their thoughts.

Vote: U/A.

Motion: Perry made the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Stephens seconded the motion.

Vote: U/A.

Respectfully submitted by *Shari Bullen* for the Dover Utilities Commission

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