



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER UTILITIES COMMISSION - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 271 Mast Road, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: **Monday, April 18, 2011**
Meeting Time: **6:00 pm**

Members Present: Vice Chair Jay Stephens, Dana Leggett, Ed Spuler, Mark Moeller

Alternate Member Present:

Members Absent: Mike Earley, Chair Otis Perry, Marty Coyle, Ted Mortner

Staff Present: Bill Boulanger, Superintendent of Public Works and Utilities, Dean Peschel, City of Dover
Environmental Consultant, Jennifer Bretz, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:14pm.

Stephens sat in for Perry.

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes of March 21, 2011

Vote: U/A

4. User's Forum

5. Abatement Requests

A. Cornerstone Crossing

Applicant, Paul Gibbons, stated he is the President of the Cornerstone Association. He has been the President for 13 months and a homeowner there since 1993. There are a total of 37 homes. 30 homes are on private septic. Around 2000, there was a lot of talk about the septic infrastructure. They've had to replace 2 pumps; they've had to dig up one pipe, in particular. When they dug it up there was a lot of discussion because it wasn't up to code. Since 1999-2000 they have been on a push to get off of septic and go to City sewer. About a year ago, Dean Peschel approached the Association regarding an opportunity for City sewer to run through a portion of the neighborhood. What they're looking for is the opportunity to do the Tolend Road Landfill runoff through a segment of their neighborhood thereby giving the opportunity for all the homeowners to go onto City sewer. He's asking for the DUC to see if there is an opportunity to either waive the investment fee, a reduced fee or an extension on the due date.

Peschel stated the reason he's involved with this is due to the closure of the Tolend Landfill which was a landfill that the City operated from 1960-1980. It was deemed a superfund site. They've been negotiating a closure remedy for a few years. They now have the remedy in place and will begin construction this spring. In anticipation of that, they had to go through a design phase. They also had to agree with the EPA on the remedy. The remedy is going to be a series of extraction wells that will intersect groundwater that are coming from underneath the landfill. The groundwater will be collected and piped to the city sewer and sent to the WWTP for treatment. There is no sewer adjacent to the Tolend landfill. It would be much cheaper operationally to allow this force main to discharge to a gravity line. They negotiated with the county and the county gave the city an easement across the field. It will then get onto County Farm Cross Road; go through a portion of the development. They had to get an easement from the homeowners who agreed. In exchange for the easement, the Dover Landfill Group agreed to design as much of a gravity system that could tie into the system that the landfill needed that would also service as many of the homes by gravity as possible with the understanding that



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the homeowners would be responsible to pay for that portion of the sewer themselves. At that point, having met with Mr. Gibbons and working on the design; they met with the City Manager and the Finance Director to see if the City would be willing to provide financing to construct the private portion of this line. It would be a loan that the City would take out but the homeowners would be paying it back as part of their sewer bill. The sewer line designed by Wright Pierce as part of this overall project for the private section came in at \$157,000. The homeowners of Cornerstone Crossing are going to be constructing \$157,000 of sewer infrastructure to City standards.

Gibbons stated that each homeowner would be assessed an annual fee alongside their sewer bill as well as the immediate impact fee. During these economic times, it would be hard for some of the homeowners to do. The association is trying to make this the best option long term. He said that he's really surprised that they couldn't finance the investment fee.

Moeller asked how important is the easement to the City?

Peschel stated that it's very important. It's going to save the City money long term. They'll be pumping wastewater from the landfill for many decades. Instead of going to the pump station, this is a good investment to go that way.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the development/sewer line.

Stevens stated typically the contractor puts in the sewer line, bears the full cost and still pays the investment fees. For this particular development he can understand why the cost would be a problem, pricewise, particularly if it's a homeowners group that's now picking up the cost. From his perspective, he sees no problem looking at some way of letting the homeowner pay the fee over an allotted amount of time.

Moeller asked how many lots are affected by the investment fee within the subdivision?

Gibbons stated there are a total of 36 homes.

Boulanger asked if they would tie in immediately. If so, the Board will have two issues to deal with. One is the investment fee and the other is the tie in time.

Stephens stated that the requirements say that if it's a public line, you have to tie in. If it's a private line, the Board can't force them to tie in. The other thing that's always a given is if your septic goes, you have to tie in because it will cause a health hazard. If they put in the line because now is the time to put it in but they stay on their septic fields, being a private line and not turning it over to the City, in theory they would not have to pay an investment fee until their septic line failed or they are made to tie in on their own.

Boulanger stated that he believes that if the City is going to front the money for the loan than they're going to want everyone to tie in at that time.



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Stephens stated he would like to take the investment fee, roll it into the total loan and the homeowners can pay it back as part of the loan.

Peschel stated that the Finance Director stated that they could not finance the investment fees because the investment fees are a different fund than the loan.

Discussion ensued regarding ways to allow the homeowners pay the investment fees.

Motion: Moeller made the motion to table the abatement until the May 16 meeting so they could get more information from the Finance Director, Spuler seconded.

Vote: U/A

6. Reports

A. Abatement Review Team Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

B. Utilities Report

The report was reviewed and discussed by Staff.

C. Finance Report-None

Motion: Spuler made the motion to approve reports, Moeller seconded.

Vote: U/A

7. New Business

8. Old Business

A. Willand Pond Update-Dean Peschel

Peschel stated pond has gone down a lot but it has gone back up a foot and a half from its low last fall due to snow melt and recent rain. It's getting to the point where they need to put the wells back on and send the water to waste. The consultant working on the Willand Pond project made a presentation to City Council at a March Council meeting.

Peschel proceeded to discuss the presentation made to City Council.

B. Nutrient Removal

Peschel stated this category relates to wastewater and Stormwater. Nitrogen and Phosphorous are nutrients of concern. If there is too much of it in the water, algae can bloom. In the estuary the primary concern is nitrogen. Nitrogen getting into the estuary is being identified as what's causing eel grass to die off in Great Bay. This problem has been seen in a lot of other places. The EPA in a national response has said that nutrients are bad and everyone needs to remove them. Our regulatory authority allows us to currently regulate wastewater treatment plants. They do that by way of a permit every 5 years that gets looked at again. In the Great Bay, the state has to develop water quality standards. They've identified, in Great Bay watershed, the wastewater treatment plants contribute 25-30% of the nitrogen getting into the estuary and non point source, which includes storm water, septic systems, agriculture, people fertilizing their lawns, amongst 65% of the problem. The problem that EPA has is they want to clean up all the estuaries and the Great Bay. They currently don't have the



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authority to regulate non point sources which is the biggest problem. They do have the ability to regulate wastewater treatment plants. They have suggested and have given a draft permit to one of the communities, Exeter, in the estuary. They've given Exeter a limit called "Limits of Technology" which is 3mg per liter. It's all technology will allow you to lower nitrogen to coming out of your pipe. The problem is that the cost to do Limits of Technology within Dover would be on the order of \$25,000,000 if the City was ordered to get a limit of 3.

Discussion ensued regarding Limits of Technology.

9. Areas of Concern

10. Adjournment

Motion: Spuler made the motion to adjourn at 7:48pm, Leggett seconded.

Vote: U/A