

COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MINUTES  
October 28, 2009

The Commissioner's meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. in the training room at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, 104 Sawmill Lane North Conway, NH. The following were present: Chairman James Umberger, Commissioner Robert Porter, Commissioner John Santuccio, Superintendent David Bernier, and Recording Secretary Kristine Cluff.

Chairman Umberger called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. and Chairman Umberger reminded everyone this is the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter night meeting as required by the Precinct By-laws.

Commissioner Umberger stated he wanted to thank video-grapher Laura Slitt for her filming of the Rural Development celebration on Monday.

Minutes

**Motion of Commissioner Santuccio seconded by Commissioner Umberger to accept the public minutes of October 14, 2009 as written. Motion carried by voice 2-0-1 with Commissioner Porter abstaining as he left the meeting early.**

**Fire Department**  
(copied from the Chief's report)

**Membership:**

42 Members, one new application placed on file until the background check comes back.

**Personnel:**

**Training:**

Department Training will be doing search and rescue drills with the use of the smoke machine.

**Department Activities:**

The muster team took over all first place at the Fryeburg Fair Muster; the last time that they did this was 1996

The department has been very busy with life safety inspections.

I have been working on the NCCC Maintenance Building plans doing code review.

**Emergency Calls:**

The fire department has responded to 79 calls for the month of October.

The fire department has responded to 824 calls year to date.

**Apparatus / Trucks:**

Nothing to report at this time

**Equipment Issues:**

Hose testing went well, the department had two lengths of four inch hose which failed the test and will need to be replaced the hose - total of 200 feet of hose. Chief Preece stated two lengths of four inch hose failed the hose testing and will be replaced with five inch hose.

**Purchase for New Equipment:**

Had to buy new gas meter as we thought we would have to, the old meter could not be recalibrated anymore or get parts for , \$1,260.00 for new meter came out of Firefighting new equipment.

**Seavey Street:**

The garage doors two have been installed as spec, out and the third door is being made at the factory, they have put a temporary door in place for the time being. Commissioner Umberger questioned if the electric is in and Chief Preece explained it has been installed to the service disconnect and panel has been installed. Waiting on the mezzanine to be finished and the electrical will be completed.

The water department has started installing the sewer line and site work clean up.

L.A. Drew will be turning the building over to the Precinct on November 9, 2009

Chief Preece will be moving equipment into the garage the same week. Commissioner Umberger reminded Chief Preece we are looking to a ribbon cutting ceremony soon. Chief Preece would like to have some of the equipment in place and that should be the second or third week of November.

Chief Preece met with Ed O'Halloran concerning the snow coming off the storage garage roof.

Chief Preece stated the Precinct has gone back up to a Class 4 ISO rating. The report still shows the department is short an engine company. Mark Wilch will address this as soon as the equipment is added to Engine 4. Engine 4 will also give the department full credit for ladders and we be able to lower the divergence. Chief Preece explained he will outfit the truck with equipment and tools from this year's budget and the fire fighters association will pick up lot of little items. Once the ladders are added to Engine 4 Chief Preece expects this to go from 2.72 maybe up to a 4. Chief Preece explained the training side cannot be improved upon unless each call fireman goes out and does place of assembly inspections. One of the big things the department needs is a training facility at a cost of three (3) million dollars. Most of the equipment scored between 94% -96% while ladders only scored 74%. Commissioner Umberger asked what changes would be needed to get to a category three. Chief Preece said we would have to bump up staffing and money. Karen Umberger questioned where the nearest training facility is located. The only one in the state is in Concord. It was questioned if a northern New Hampshire facility would be viable and Chief Preece explained it is difficult to have a regional facility without being a part owner or having some sort of stake in it. Chief Preece noted the Precinct has the land to be able to accomplish this but it can't be done by just the Precinct. Bill Hounsell questioned how much it cost to go from a five to a four and will we recoup the costs. Chief Preece

explained it cost \$100,000.00 for the pump we need. Changes were made to run cards, policies and equipment was purchased. ISO knew we were trying to get back to a four so they never actually changed us to a five. Karen Umberger stated the Town of Conway could apply for grants and monitor a fire training facility on a town level. Bill Hounsell questioned if this could be incorporated with a new fire station and the answer is no because of the live training necessary.

#### Old Business

Superintendent Bernier stated Attorney Judge will confirm tomorrow a date and time for the sewer rules and regulations workshop.

#### Superintendent's Report (copied from Superintendent's Report)

Crews have just completed all sewer work as part of easement agreements for Contract 6, Balboni, Morin, Shutak, & Randolph Ski Club.

CVFD completed all work associated with the interconnect with the exception of the meter the meter pit mechanical work.

Attended meeting in Concord regarding the groundwater commission and took advantage to discuss the status of our well#6 permit with Stephen Roy of NHDES. I showed him the most recent monitoring results and after a long discussion he agreed that our permit will be forthcoming very soon.

Attended another meeting in Concord on the Water Sustainability Commission and had a very encouraging discussion with the Army Corps of Engineers on a program called (protection of municipal infrastructure) I explained our dilemma with the very eminent loss of Well #2 and asked if this would be a likely fit and he assured me that it would be and the Corps would shore up the Saco River with Rip Rap to prevent the loss of Well#2. Would we like to enter into a cost sharing project if so a will start the process. Karen Umberger is concerned the Precinct told the Department of Environmental Services the Precinct planned to abandon Well #2 as the prime reason to give us Well #6. This seems to be doing something just the opposite of what we told the DES we were going to do. Someone would have to have a very good reason and Mrs. Umberger hasn't heard it. Mrs. Umberger questioned why the Precinct would want to save Well #2. Mrs. Umberger stated she is going on what information she got from the meetings. State legislation encourages municipalities to go out and find new sources of water, protect the source and bring them on line. Well #2 is grandfathered and to replace it would not require a large groundwater withdrawal process. There has been no negative comment to this and it would be very proper to look at this without offending NHDES. Commissioner Umberger noted there is no cost to do the application. Superintendent Bernier noted the Precinct tried to get Well #2 water loss applied to Well #6 and because they are in separate aquifers it is not allow the transfer. They would allow us to transfer the water loss of Well #1. Superintendent Bernier noted the DES knows full well what we are trying to do and doesn't believe we are stepping on anyone's toes. Superintendent Bernier stated the Town of Conway may have to sign off on this because it is in floodway. Commissioner Porter stated all we are doing is authorizing the Superintendent to move forward with the application. Superintendent

Bernier stated this is the only pump station that pumps directly into the low pressure side of the water system and all the others go to Hurricane.

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to authorize Superintendent Bernier to contact the Army Corp of Engineers to look at rip rapping the river bank with regard to Well #2. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

Well#6 permitting also has a water conservation requirement and a water audit provision to help reduce water losses from unaccounted for water. This requirement has triggered the need to conduct periodical leak detection surveys. Consequently, NHDES has just started a grant program with a 1-4 local match. I applied for this grant under and we were awarded a grant to conduct leak detection of all of the Precinct's old water mains as these are the most likely to be leaking as opposed to all of the Precinct's new mains. Superintendent Bernier explained the NHDES has applied to the federal government for a grant to look at conservation measures and leak detection. DES will contract with a firm using a computerized program that can pinpoint leaks. We have applied for a grant for the seven miles of cast iron pipe and asbestos pipe in our system. The Precinct has been notified we are a recipient of the grant at 100%. Superintendent Bernier stated this will be started sometime in the spring of 2010 and is worth thousands of dollars to the Precinct.

Precinct held another successful celebration to recognize our grant providers and the politicians who help us with these infrastructure funding endeavors.

Contract 7 is getting very close to bid as well as our green energy projects and the improvements to Artist Falls Pump Station.

We continue to have problems with Fairpoint telemetry failures in particular at the Depot Street Pump Station. A & D Instruments is going to look at possibly using a radio reads for the pump station monitoring and eliminate the telephone lines. This will be a cost savings to the Precinct between \$4,000.00 and \$5,000.00 per year. If the power goes out, with a generator the Precinct could still monitor the pump stations. The antenna and PLC are all ready in place courtesy of Pennichuck Water. Superintendent Bernier stated the local Fairpoint technicians do a fabulous job but the overall service is not there.

We have completed all of our scheduled work for the season with the exception of making the final sewer connection to the Seavey Street Garage, and trying to get the first building of Whitman Woods hooked into the Depot Street Pump Station. All in all the crew has done a good job this summer considering we had a very busy construction season with many homeowners hooking up to the new sewers provided under contract 6.

Lastly, I would like to see what the BOC would like to do as far as low pressure sewer is involved. Here are the following considerations:

1. Precinct purchases individual grinder pump stations as part of the project and hands them over to residents once they hire a contractor to make connection from the street force main connection to the house.

2. Precinct purchases grinder pump stations in bulk from distributor and sells them to home owners at precinct's cost and provide a discount to the resident for a percentage of their sewer charge (say 25%).
3. Will the precinct provide the discount for anything outside of single or duplex residential or also consider commercial properties.
4. Leave all the same as it is now.

What happens down the road when the pump fails? The Precinct could have a policy that the homeowner is given one pump.

The Precinct could obtain the pumps from a distributor and the Precinct could provide them to the homeowner at the Precinct's cost with no markup and then apply a percentage discount say twenty five percent once they are on line to pay for the maintenance and associated costs. This takes away the argument of the Precinct having to maintain these pumps.

Commissioner Umberger stated these people have paid for sewer construction through their Precinct tax and feels the Precinct should give these homeowners the pump in the same fashion as they did with the water meters. There could be a written agreement in place; the homeowner would replace it when the time comes. This is something that could be written into the sewer rules and regulations.

Commissioner Umberger noted the installation of the pump would be part of hooking up to sewer. Superintendent Bernier explained that one homeowner in Kearsarge is 230' from the lateral at the property line and it is going to cost him \$10,000.00 to hookup. Commissioner Porter questioned how much does an E-One Pump cost and to do a residential home would be \$3,500.00 to \$3,800.00 for a single home. Tim Anderson question if the Precinct is going into an apartment building or condo development this will not work. Superintendent Bernier explained the DES has required flows for the size of the pipe and emergency pumping. Mr. Anderson questioned if someone puts a "matchbox truck" in the system will that stop the propeller because metal chips at his work stops the propeller dead. Superintendent Bernier explained the macerator type pump similar to a garbage disposal. The Environmental One pump is the best of the best. When Superintendent Bernier was in Dartmouth there were some E-One pumps that are fourteen years old with one or two failures. They can be made to fail. Bill Hounsell questioned if we are talking about existing homes or new ones because existing home have been paying the Precinct tax and when you build a pump station everyone pays. Mr. Hounsell noted we need to reach a fair approach to this. We need to look at multiple buildings, residential and commercial taking into consideration these people have been paying the bonds for many years. Sherri Bernier concurred with Mr. Hounsell and we need to look at commercial ski clubs and again noted these people have been paying and we need to reimburse these costs. Commissioner Umberger noted the homeowner pay for a pump and it fails maybe the Precinct could replace it. Mrs. Bernier also noted that multi units with two to five tenants must be watched because it won't be fair for some landlord mismanagement and the tenants must be kept informed.

Superintendent Bernier explained we had one multi family unit that was scheduled to be picked up by gravity and the sewer line was to be six feet deeper but DES said it was too deep. This multi family unit

has to install a pump. We are utilizing customary and usual design criteria because cost does matter. The Precinct is looking at sewer line for Duprey Road and to do a traditional pump station is \$200,000.00. If we put in a force main and give everyone a pump is a considerable cost savings. The Precinct can't afford to sewer all these little areas as it is just cost prohibitive. Another suggestion for Duprey Road would not be hooked up until you needed to unless you're in the aquifer. Superintendent Bernier noted the Precinct needs to look at how to sewer Sunset Hill and Duprey Road. The water main is on the same side of the road on Duprey Road that the sewer line would need to be installed. Tim Anderson questioned if this is a viable option. Superintendent Bernier explained it gets to a point where we not do the smaller areas. Superintendent Bernier stated people can ask for a waiver from the Precinct where the septic system meets the state criteria. Bill Hounsell noted those people are maintaining a septic system that needs to be pumped and when it does fail the average costs is \$5,000.00. Commissioner Umberger noted no one is in favor of reducing fees and we should provide the pump. We need to remember that Duprey Road is in the aquifer district. Karen Umberger reiterated that we have paid too much money not to have everybody hooked up. Mrs. Umberger feels that everyone is paying for the sewer and everyone should be required to hook up. Mr. Hounsell concurs with Mrs. Umberger if only a few have a history of failing and we take the money from capital reserve account then all of us paying to replace it would be a small cost. It was also considered to get the pumps included in the project costs. Mrs. Bernier stated exceptions happen people just spent \$10,000.00 to install septic because they were in dire straights and now they are going to pay to hook up. There has to be a provision for these folks to allow them a break they just paid \$10,000.00. Commissioner Umberger stated the Precinct does have a waiver procedure for some unusual circumstance because we all have paid for it.

Superintendent Bernier explained they have a really nice yard with paved driveway and now you have to change everything out in 90 days to hook up to sewer. This pump issue is a major decision for the Board of Commissioners. Superintendent Bernier will contact CDM tomorrow to see about getting the pumps as part of the project.

Superintendent Bernier stated the two remaining easements for Contract #7 should be ready shortly and would like a motion to sign these out of session. **Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to sign the last two remaining easements for Contract #7 for Villaume and Northbrook out of session. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

Superintendent Bernier explained we sent the easement package to NHDOT Railroad Bureau and it has not been received. Today we have replacement agreements for signature and we have cut another check for \$400.00. **Motion of Commissioner Porter and seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to resign the NH DOT Bureau of Rails and Trails easement agreement. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

#### Other Business

The November 11, 2009 meeting falls on Veteran's Day and will be moved November 12, 2009.

Public Comment

Karen Umberger noted the By-Laws give the authority to access fees even what is decided on this sewer business. However, it has to go to the annual meeting for a vote. Mrs. Umberger stated it comes down to the fact we have to come to grips with it at the annual meeting.

Tim Anderson noted we talked about the unaccounted for water and that we are losing 15 to 20 percent and questioned if they has been slowed down. Superintendent Bernier explained that it was forty percent when he came in 2004. Our last quarter billing we were down to three percent which is way above the industry standard of twenty percent.

Mr. Anderson asked about the twenty five percent interconnection grants. This has been deferred by the State and will be reinstated in the biennium budget. This is the twenty five percent for Well #6. The river crossing and Washington Avenue money has already been received. Mr. Hounsell stated we are fighting with the state for them to fund that moral obligation.

Sign Checks

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to sign checks out of session. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Adjourn

**Having no further business to discuss, Commissioner Porter motioned and Commissioner Umberger seconded to adjourn this public meeting at 9:40 p.m. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

Respectfully,



Kristine M. Cluff  
Recording Secretary