

Commission Meeting  
Minutes  
November 12, 2009

The Commissioner's convened at 10:00 a.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, Chief Patrick Preece and Recording Secretary Kristine Cluff.

Chairman Umberger called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to accept the public minutes of October 28, 2009 as written. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

Fire Department  
(copied from Chief's Report)

Membership:

41 Members

Dick Forbes resigned from the fire department; I would like to thank him for 32 years of service to the fire department.

Personnel:

All fire department personnel now have their traffic safety vest assigned to them and instructed when they needed to be worn. Went over the policy when they are required to be worn and when it optional to be worn, this should clean up any outstanding issues on the vest.

Training:

The Department Training search and rescue with the smoke machine went very well and the members got a lot out of the training.

Department Activities:

Chief Preece has been working with North Conway Grand Hotel on their fire alarm system upgrade and code compliance. Chief Preece had a guest complaint regarding not being able to hear the fire alarm. The owner of the hotel is being very proactive in obtaining pricing and developing a plan to correct the problem. The Chief is still working on the NCCC Maintenance Building plans and working on the code review with the builder. Chief Preece has rejected plans until there is more separation in the walls.

Emergency Calls:

The fire department has responded to 95 calls for the month of October and 24 calls for the month of November. The fire department has responded to 864 calls year to date and is 110 calls down from 2008.

Apparatus / Trucks:

Engine one failed its pump test; the pump is only pumping at 75% of its capacity and the pump needs to be rebuilt. I hope to have a proposal to give to the board at the commission meeting. The cost will be approximately \$7,000.00 to rebuild the pump. Engine one had a third bad battery that needed to be replaced. Talked to the Lakes Region Fire Apparatus on this issue and stated this is normal for NAPA batteries. Commissioner Santuccio questioned how long E-1 would be out of service and if this is still a rock problem. Chief Preece stated the repair should take one week and it is unsure whether this was caused by rocks. Karen Umberger questioned if Chief Preece is going forward with the repair and is asking for pre-approval. Chief Preece stated this is primary attack piece and hopes to have enough money left in call payroll to handle this repair. If necessary, Chief Preece could come back and ask the Board to take the funds from the capital reserve fund. Commissioner Porter feels that is the logical thing to do at this point. Office Manager stated we need to consider that we have a \$5,000.00 audit invoice on workers comp. Commissioner Porter stated we have the emergency fund for such things and we can put it back next year. Mrs. Umberger stated that once Chief Preece knows where he stands with the call payroll, he could split the difference.

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to authorize Chief Preece to spend up to \$7,000.00 and authorize the funds to be taken from the Fire Emergency Capital Reserve Fund. Any unforeseen issues will be brought back to the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

Chief Preece explained this truck has been a problem since day one. Part of the truck is International and part of the truck was from Central States. Regarding the battery issue, Lakes Region Apparatus has recommended changing from Napa Batteries to Interstate batteries.

Equipment Issues:

Pump testing is complete and all trucks passed except for engine one. Chief Preece had Engine Four tested and this will put all pump testing on one schedule.

Purchase for New Equipment:

The new turn out gear has been sized and ordered and should receive the new gear in December.

Seavey Street:

The garage doors and openers are installed and now match. The water department did a great job on the site work and Chief Preece expressed his thanks to Superintendent Bernier and water department crew for a

wonderful job. L.A. Drew is still working on the inside of the building; they should be completed on Wednesday November 11, 2009.

Commissioner Umberger stated at the last meeting there was discussion concerning a training facility and questioned if that is something the Town of Conway could go out for a grant. Chief Preece stated he will talk with Town Manager Earl Sires on this. Karen Umberger questioned if the department is going to present Dick Forbes with a certificate. Chief Preece explained each honorary fireman is given a plaque.

#### Old Business

##### Sewer Rules and Regulations:

Superintendent Bernier has not received anything from Attorney Judge regarding the sewer rules and regulations. Superintendent Bernier will follow up on this and get back to the Board of Commissioners. It was discussed to have a public hearing on the sewer rules and regulations at a regular commission meeting.

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

Superintendent Bernier stated at the last meeting there was discussion with regard to including the grinder pumps into our project costs. Superintendent Bernier explained the DES will not pay for them but Rural Development came back stating we cannot specify the type of pump and that means the Precinct could end up with a dozen different pumps. Rural Development would require a competitive bid, procurement and easement process for each pump type. Superintendent Bernier recommends the Precinct purchase the pumps and will put together a warrant article. Commissioner Porter doesn't believe the Board has made a decision on what way the Board is going handle this. Commissioner Umberger stated the Board has a little more time before the decision needs to be made.

Crew remains very busy with inspection of new sewer connections available for hookup from Contract 6.

Attended meeting in Concord regarding the groundwater commission, also spoke with Stephen Roy from the NHDES groundwater Bureau and he stated that we were very close to acquiring the permit for Well#6. We received a contingent report from NHDES and they stated the permit is approved with conditions: I have a copy of their findings available for the BOC. Superintendent Bernier also spoke with CDM regarding some of the conditions I do not agree with and I want CDM to seek a better permit with the limited information currently available. Superintendent Bernier stated there has been discussion about pumping Well #3 for five consecutive days. Commissioner Umberger questioned if we will still monitor the middle river and Superintendent Bernier will take the middle river readings each Friday. Superintendent Bernier the data we have pick up this summer was during one of the wettest summers and the middle river almost dried up completely.

Met with the general manager of Cranmore Ski Area to discuss the Precinct's unaccounted for water losses and in particular the amount increases in the winter months, asked him and his staff to be on the lookout for illicit connection or bypassed metering. Meeting was well received and no accusations were presented or perceived.

Worked on reviewing in detail the plans and specifications for Phase I & II projects as well as Contract 7. Made notes on changes and forwarded them to CDM, discussed contract 7 with RD.

Superintendent Bernier stated that Cranmore has stated interest in utilizing the Hurricane Reservoir for snow making and would install a polyethylene line and utilize the land topography to get to the mountain.

Contacted Dewhurst office regarding the fact that we now have all easements on the way for contract 7 and they should complete their letter of opinion to RD regarding the acquisition of all easements. NHDOT called and stated they had received the original agreement documents and has returned the original \$400.00 check to be voided.

Monday we held our first pre-bid meeting to ARRA funding projects ( Phase I Solar) was well received and attended by approx. 20 contractor's and or representatives.

Discussed Town of Conway's near term plans to pave and improve roads in the following areas: Valley View Road, Sunset Hill, Champney Road, Thompson Road and Amethyst Hill Road. We do not have any of these roads in our near term plans and we need to discuss and see if we want to consider adding these to Contract 8?

Superintendent Bernier stated to sewer Champney Road your talking small lots with high density and is #3 on the priority list. This is 750 feet of sewer line from Route 16 to sewer seven homes by gravity. Sunset Hill is 1300' by gravity to sewer nine to thirteen homes and eight additional vacant lots. Thompson Road is 400' - 800' of force main to sewer eight homes and three vacant lots. Superintendent Bernier stated that Champney and Sunset Hill should be considered for Contract #8. Amethyst Hill has very big lots anywhere from 1 ½ acres to 4 acres 1350' of gravity sewer for give homes at a cost of \$35,000 per house. Superintendent Bernier explained that anything outside of the aquifer is not prudent for the Precinct to sewer. Valley View Road is close to Well #2 and is a priority #4. This is 1600' of gravity sewer and 600' force main with very small lots – ¼ acre to 1/3 of acre for a total of 22 homes and two vacant lots. Valley View Road will be the biggest bang for our dollars. Echo Acres again has large lots and requires a pump station – 4400' gravity 2000' of force main for thirty one homes and five vacant lots for a cost of \$33,000 per connection. Karen Umberger noted that Echo Acres is right on the river. Superintendent Bernier explained that Echo Acres is on the same geology as the treatment plant and it is not prudent for the Precinct to sewer this area. Commissioner Umberger stated the master plan stated the Precinct intended to sewer everyone. Superintendent Bernier stated that the Precinct is forcing a lot of taxpayer's hands once we install a sewer line in front their homes. Commissioner Umberger is concerned that we are changing the master plan and these people have been paying taxes on the sewer projects. Superintendent Bernier explained the master plan is a tool to guide us and Commissioner Umberger stated we have used the master plan for our sewer projects. Question is that taxpayers have been paying for the sewer

projects and now you are not going to be on sewer. Superintendent Bernier explained there are areas in the Precinct that are just not prudent to sewer. Commissioner Porter questioned if there is a way to sewer Echo Acres going directly to the plant instead of coming down Route 16. The plant in line is not deep enough to accept it directly from Echo Acres. The pump station at Echo Acres could cost one million dollars and Superintendent Bernier questioned if the Precinct should check with the homeowners on Echo Acres to see if they want sewer. Karen Umberger expressed her concern with this. Mrs. Umberger noted over the last 15 years we have paid x number of dollars for sewer and asking these people if they want sewer is the wrong question. Commissioner Santuccio stated we didn't send out letters to anyone else asking if they wanted sewer. Commissioner Porter believes this should be sewered because of the proximity of the river. There is also 900' of water main that needs to be replaced on Echo Acres. Karen Umberger asked how long a leach field will last and Superintendent Bernier explained that for a family of four that is pumping every two years with the solids being pumped out periodically the leach field should last for decades with no problem.

Contacted Fairpoint Communications about updating phone line for Wal-Mart station they said they would call me back within a day or two that was a week ago and I have not heard back! Superintendent Bernier will pursue radio cost and radio path survey ASAP.

WWTP crew installed the new influent pump, it is working well and it will save approx \$2,000.00 per year in electrical cost. I notified New Hampshire COOP and sent along backup information so that we may see a rebate for this endeavor.

#### Public Comment

Karen Umberger stated we tabled Kearsarge Estates meters and questioned this status of this item. Superintendent Bernier indicated he would take the money out of the meter account.

#### Sign Checks

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to sign checks out of session.  
Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

#### Non Public Session

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to enter non public session for a personnel issue under RSA 91-A: 3, II (c) – Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the body or agency itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant. Motion carried by roll call vote – Umberger – aye, Porter – aye and Santuccio – aye.**

Commission Meeting 11/12/09

Adopted: As Written  
November 25, 2009

Reentered Public Session 11:26 a.m.  
Adjourn

**Motion of Commissioner Porter seconded by Commissioner Santuccio to adjourn this public meeting at 11:28 am. Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.**

Respectfully,



Kristine M. Cluff  
Recording Secretary