

Board of Commissioners

Minutes

September 30, 2020

The Commission Meeting convened at 10:00 AM. in the meeting room at the North Conway Water Precinct 104 Sawmill Lane North Conway, NH, as well as through the online platform, WebEx. The following were present: Commissioner John Santuccio, Commissioner Robert Porter, Commissioner Suzanne Nelson, Superintendent Jason Gagnon, Fire Chief Patrick Preece and Recording Secretary Hannah Andersen.

Call the Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Santuccio at 10:00 AM.

Minutes

Motion of Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Porter to approve the Public Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2020.

Motion carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Membership:

40 Members

No new applications at this time.

Personnel:

2 members on leave at this time

Training:

Department Training. Has not been set up for November as of this time

Tower 2 Training: Performed ground ladders, carries properly getting ready for chimney fire season. This went well and was needed.

Rescue Training: We had a change of plans; All EMS Providers started taking the new State of New Hampshire Protocol Calls roll out which needs to be done by November 1st.

Department Activities

Performed building plan review for new auto parts store that will be moving into the old Rite Aid site.

Performed CO inspection for the new Cathedral Ledge Distillery and it passed

Emergency Calls:

The fire department has responded to 112 calls for the month of September The department has responded to 890 calls year to date for 2020

Apparatus / Trucks:

All Trucks are in the process of their annual DOT inspections.

Tower 2 need to have chase chain the ride along the ladder needs to be replaced.

Purchase for New Equipment:

Seavey Street Station: the last work is under way which is hooking up the heaters to heat the building for the winter. Should be complete by Friday using the existing heaters

Norcross Circle: Steel erection crew has been working hard. They have been on site for a week and half and making great progress.

Mock up wall is complete would like to have the Board stop by and take a look at it

A thank you to Chief Wagner for his years of service to the Conway Police Department and assistance to the Fire Department in that time. We wish him well on his retirement.

Other Business

(Superintendent's Report – Jason Gagnon)

Approval to Purchase Water/Sewer Pickup Truck

As approved at Annual Meeting, the Precinct has received bids for a ¾ ton 4x4 pickup truck with a service body. The low bidder was Grappone Ford in Bow, NH. The bid is attached – the price to purchase the truck is \$39,250 and includes the truck and service body installed by the dealer.

Motion of Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Porter to accept the purchase of the 4x4 pickup truck from Grappone Ford at \$39,250.

Motion carried by a 3-0-0 voice vote.

Drought Update

With all the news about the extreme drought across New England, I wanted to provide an update on where we stand here in the Precinct. We are fortunate that our wells are in an excellent aquifer that is much more drought resistant than most across the state. Water levels in our wells have remained strong and we have not felt the need to impose any water use restrictions. In fact, our only well with water use restrictions (Well 6) was able to be operated for the entire month of August without lowering surrounding groundwater levels below those permitted by the State. According to the attached screen shot of a slide presented by NHDES in a Drought Update, Carroll County is only 3.05" shy of normal precipitation for "Water Year 2020" to date – much less than other parts of the state currently experiencing severe drought.

Village at Kearsarge Water / Sewer Project

LA Drew will be wrapping up installation of the sewer main by the middle of next week if weather cooperates. The Village at Kearsarge homeowners association has opted to pitch in their own funds to have all of the road area disturbed by the new sewer main re-paved at full width, rather than just having the trench areas repaved.

Solar Installation

Precinct crews have continued to work to prep the site for the solar installation to help save money on site work when the contractor arrives. We should be receiving our first shipment of electrical conduit this week – solar crews are expected on site in October to begin the work of installing the new array.

Fuel Installation

We have marked out the new fuel installation and excavation/construction will begin by the end of the week.

Potential Federal COVID Relief

Senator Jeanne Shaheen has co-sponsored a bi-partisan bill that would provide \$1 billion in emergency grants, low- and zero-interest loans and loan forgiveness for small and rural water and wastewater systems across the country. It is unclear right now exactly what types of expenses the funding could cover, but we will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and the Precinct's eligibility for a share of the funding.

Water Asset Management

Last week we met with CDM to continue GIS work on the 2019 Asset Management project for which the Precinct received a \$20,000 matching grant. Work has been postponed beyond its original schedule due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person meetings, but we are again starting to make progress with the hope of wrapping the project up in the next two months. Wright-

Pierce has completed the other part of the work for this project (development of a hydrant flushing program). We anticipate that our first run of the flushing program will happen in spring 2021 due to the current drought conditions throughout the state.

USEPA Cyber Security Technical Assistance Program

The Precinct was selected to receive a free assessment of our computer network infrastructure and practices through the US EPA. The goal of the program is to assess our current cybersecurity practices and identify potential vulnerabilities to outside attacks. EPA's consultant will provide recommendations on how to strengthen our network infrastructure to create a more secure computer environment here at the Precinct. The initial meeting with Horsley Witten Group (EPA's consultant) took place on Tuesday morning and included Precinct staff, Tom Albert (our IT provider), and Matt Cirinna (our SCADA provider).

PFAS Update

In the latest legislative session, the NH Legislature passed legislation making the new PFAS standards law. This legislation had bipartisan support and was signed into law by the Governor. The result of this legislation is that a pending lawsuit against NHDES for the process used to develop the new standards has been voided and the PFAS standards are now again in effect. On the drinking water side, this means that the Precinct will have to sample its wells for PFAS for at least two consecutive quarters. If those results all come back non-detect, we may be able to petition to waive an additional two quarters of sampling.

On the wastewater side, it is still unclear how the State will choose to enforce PFAS standards at wastewater treatment facilities. Technically, any drinking water regulation automatically applies to AGQS (Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards) as well. Because we discharge to groundwater through our infiltration basins, we are impacting the groundwater quality and technically are subject to AGQS standards. In my previous conversations with NHDES, they realize that this is one of those "unintended consequence" situations and my understanding is they are still working through how they plan to enforce these rules for wastewater installations. I will certainly continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated as I know more.

Welcome to Dodie Olsen

The Precinct has hired Dodie Olsen to perform cleaning duties after the retirement of Dale Hamilton. Dodie has been doing a great job so far and we look forward to working with her.

Saco River Erosion Study

We are currently working to finalize the paperwork needed for the NHDES funding and beginning the process of putting together the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) needed to select a qualified fluviogeomorphologist.

Signing of Checks

Motion of Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Porter to ratify checks signed out of session:

1. 2020 Payable Checks dated 10/01/2020
2. 2020 Payroll Checks dated 10/01/2020

Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.

Adjourn

Having nothing further to come before this public meeting, **Motion of Commissioner Porter and seconded by Commissioner Nelson to adjourn this public meeting at 10:31 AM.**

Motion carried by voice vote 3-0-0.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hannah Andersen', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Hannah Andersen
Recording Secretary