

2023 Special Meeting

Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at 7:00P.M.
North Conway Water Precinct Office
104 Sawmill Lane North Conway, NH

Present:

Commissioner Suzanne Nelson
Commissioner James Umberger
Commissioner Deborah Fauver
Superintendent Jason Gagnon

Fire Chief Chad McCarthy
Moderator Donald Ekberg
Recording Secretary Hannah Andersen.

Moderator Don Ekberg called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Commissioner Suzanne Nelson introduced Deborah Fauver as NCWP's newly appointed Commissioner..

Moderator Don Ekberg led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Article SP2: Purchase of Property for Groundwater Protection

To see if the voters of the North Conway Water Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$240,000 (gross budget) for purchase of 96 +/- acres within the Precinct's groundwater protection zone to permanently protect the Precinct's drinking water supply from potentially adverse impacts from private activity on this property. This land purchase will be funded from sewer operating budget and shall be offset by \$240,000 in cash from the CVFD Interconnect fund and shall have no tax impact. Simple majority vote required.

Motion of James Umberger and seconded by Suzanne to put Article SP2 on the floor.

Jason Gagnon: Thank you all for coming out tonight. It's so nice to see so many people here to discuss groundwater protection. The Precinct is very fortunate to have an incredible groundwater aquifer that produces what I think is some of the best drinking water on earth. We are the largest, we are the largest non-disinfectant system in the state of New Hampshire. That means that we're the biggest system that exists in the state that doesn't have to add chlorine. So, we get to drink drinking water, not pool water. In any event, we learned, uh, Peter Donohue is actually here; he informed me about this property being for sale and inquired if we were interested. So, thank you, Peter. In your packet is a map, and you can see that the southern border of this property that we're hoping to purchase is only about 1,750 feet from the Precinct's highest producing well. It's not only the Precinct's highest producing well, it's the highest producing gravel pack well in the State of New Hampshire. So, it's an incredible opportunity to be able to permanently control and protect land that directly influences a major well, that is critical for the Precinct today and for the foreseeable future. The way that we're going to fund this, it's a little interesting how they word it, but we have to word it how the State asks us to word it. So, it's being added to the sewer operating budget, which we have already approved, but that's then being offset by cash that we have in the bank. Uh, that was collected when Conway Village

Fire District connected their sewer system. So, the whole reason our sewer system was built in the first place was to protect our drinking water. So, this is a great use that really brings that money full circle. It's money that was brought into the Precinct from sewer that can now be put back to protecting our drinking water. So, this is a great use that really brings that money full circle. It's money that was brought into the Precinct from sewer that can now be put back into protecting our drinking water. And that's really it, in a nutshell. If anybody has any specific questions, I'm happy to answer them. I guess the only other thing I'll say is \$240,000 is more than we were hoping to pay for the property, but we did have another offer, I have a copy of it here, a bonafide offer from someone out of North Carolina who had offered \$225,000 for it. So, \$240,000 was the price we had to pay in order to secure the property.

Donald Ekberg: Would anybody like to speak on the subject? And if you do, I guess... is there a mic you need to find somewhere?

Jason Gagnon: Uh, we don't have a mic, but we could probably turn one of these around.

Donald Ekberg: Okay. Uh, but when you speak, if you could introduce yourself, please. Is there anybody that wishes to speak on this issue?

Bill Hounsell: My name is Bill Hounsell, for the record. I just want to thank you all for coming here. This is a marvelous turnout, and I was very worried that it would be a low turnout, and some would be against this. So, because you're turned on, I want us, I want to go on the record as saying, you folks, you voters have paid \$75 million worth of investment for this infrastructure. And I want to remind you that we did it initially because nitrates were headed to our drinking water, that wonderful aquifer. And so, this is a step forward in the same direction you've let us in and supported. From 1988 until now, uh, this is a, a step forward for the valley. This, this little district, uh of new voters, uh sometimes 120 or 60 show up to vote have done the most amazing job. And I wanted to, uh, congratulate you all and say how wonderful this is for us that are working to make things happen; to know that we have the taxpayer, uh support of this district. Any Thank you very much.

Suzanne Nelson: Can I just say something? Um, you can all hear me, right? Okay. Um, we have, we pride ourselves on being proactive rather than waiting for an issue to develop. Somebody bought it and is using it and using chemicals or whatever for farming. We are taking the step to prevent that. And we like to think that, you know, that's part of our mission. Nobody can see the future. Nobody can predict everything that's going to happen, but by doing this, we're taking a step in the right direction to prevent some negative things from happening. And I would also love to thank you all for showing up and, I mean especially on a beautiful night that hasn't existed all summer. So, thank you very much.

Donald Ekberg: Anybody else wish to speak on this issue, either for or against? Ok. Are you ready for a vote on the question?

Room filled with resounding yes.

Donald Ekberg: The question is uh, to approve the article as read; all those in favor say "Aye"...



Room filled with resounding ayes.

Donald Ekberg: *Opposed? The ayes have it.* With nothing else official on the agenda, does anybody have any other ideas? Is there a motion to adjourn?

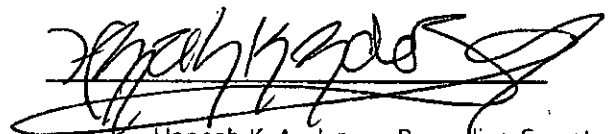
James Umberger: So moved.

Donald Ekberg: Is there a second?

Deborah Fauver: Second!

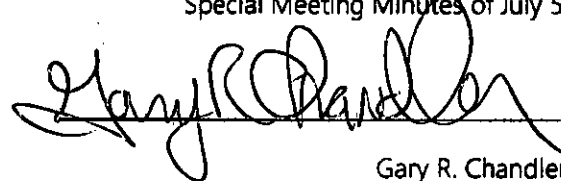
Donald Ekberg: Meeting adjourned.

Minutes recorded by:



Hannah K. Andersen, Recording Secretary

I, Gary R. Chandler, certify these minutes as the
Special Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2023.



Gary R. Chandler, Clerk

North Conway Water Precinct

