

Franconia Water Department Monthly Meeting

Thursday February 13, 2020

Franconia Town Hall 4:30pm

In Attendance: Water Commissioners Darrel Dietlein, Joan Hartford and Dan Walker; Meaghan Caron, Water Department Secretary; Peter Hilton, LRW

Public in Attendance: Barry from Bonnett Page & Stone Corp.; Jennifer McCourt, McCourt Engineering; Thad Presby, Presby Construction

Darrel moved to open the meeting at 4:30pm. Joan seconds and all are in favor.

Darrel moved to approve the addendums to the Franconia Water Department Rules and Regulations as written per the work session on January 21. Dan seconds and all are in favor.

Darrel moved to approve the work session minutes from December 3rd. Joan seconds, all are in favor.

January 9th meeting minutes are reviewed. Darrel moved to approve. Dan seconds. All are in favor.

Work session minutes from January 21 are reviewed and approved. Joan mentions a grammatical error and Meg makes this correction. Dan moved to accept the minutes as amended. Darrel seconds and all are in favor.

Time sheet and weekly transaction sheet are signed and approved.

Barry, from Bonnet Page and Stone along with Jennifer McCourt and Thad Presby are at the meeting to discuss options for the water supply and storage for the fire suppression system they are installing at the new FSC Ski Lodge at Mittersill.

In August, Jennifer had joined the commissioners at a meeting to discuss this and at that time the commissioners voted to require a separate cistern to hold water for the building. The reason they felt a cistern would be necessary was due to the fact that the new lodge would be in use during the peak season for Mittersill homeowners and the concern is that if the fire suppression system was used it would possibly drain the wells that provide the water for the Mittersill community. The recovery time for filling the wells to capacity is a main concern as it would take a couple of days.

Tonight Jennifer McCourt provides new over view maps for the FSC building plans. She mentions that a cistern is not realistic based on many factors, including restrictions due to wetland permitting and state land use limitations. There just is no room. She speaks to the fact that they moved the service line to the Westerly side of the building. This allows for better pressure to the building. Re routing the line would require a surveyor to mark all of the existing lines and mains from our system.

She speaks to the fire protection and water storage. The fire protection system is there to protect one building at a time. They don't believe that if the sprinkler system had to turn on in the event of a fire that it would be putting a bigger burden on the system, no more than what is already on the existing system. She spoke to the head contractor who confirmed that the new building is more than 400 feet from any neighboring buildings and therefore is not a danger in an emergency such as a fire. NFPA design criteria and state standards were all complied with during the design of this system. They do not believe that a storage tank is necessary.

Darrel states that one of his concerns is the age of the Mittersill system. As much as the department is trying to make necessary improvements and upgrades, it is still a 50+ year old system that is trying to meet the demands of more buildings and newer additions. The department would like to be sure that here is an element of protection for both the building and the department by having the cistern.

Dan speaks to the recovery rate being a main concern as well. The exponential use of the system's water would require a long period of time to re-fill the well. It is tough to rely on a 50-60 year old system to meet the needs of 2020 NFPA requirements.

We want our system to be viable and we want to be able to protect everybody in the process when needed.

Jennifer says a flow test was performed and it showed that it provided the volume needed. Between 200-400 gallons per minute would be used for the 30-60 minutes during the wait time until the fire department arrives. This means anywhere between 6000-24000 gallons could be used before the fire department arrives. During the flow test static pressure was 62psi and flow was at 425 gallons per minute. The other hydrant flow dropped to 20psi during the test.

Pete speaks about a 4" galvanized water line that comes down the slope from the well that absolutely cannot be touched. There is no way to turn this line off. Jennifer asks if they can think about getting a valve on the line in their process but Pete says that there is no way to get a valve installed because an insertion valve can't be installed on the 4" line.

Thad suggests looking into researching options to get access back to the pond behind the Mittersill Inn. Darrel states that the department would be in favor of this.

Jennifer confirms that the buildings are outside of the protective radius required by water protection DES.

Darrel states that we are trying to set reasonable standards as future usage continues to expand and is not going to get smaller.

Drop dead dates for getting started on the project are coming up. Barry speaks to the permit requests being "on-going". They are hoping to break ground as soon as the ground thaws and are hoping to close the loop and get moving. All permits are close to being completed and approved, many are contingent upon one-another.

If there is an additional or different water source that could be considered supplemental in the interim during a fire emergency, that would be ideal.

Thad will get in touch with Lois at the Mittersill Inn to see if the pond and dry hydrant is operable and/or if it is even an option that the engineers can pursue. He will reach out to Meg once he has contacted Lois.

The commissioners will brainstorm ideas as well and hold a work session to make a plan. It is decided that the work session will be scheduled for Wednesday the 19th at 5pm. Jennifer and Barry will join us at 5:30 if needed to discuss any new options or plans moving forward.

Jennifer, Barry and Thad excuse themselves from the remainder of the meeting.

Darrell moves to approve and move forward with the new quote from Laviolette Controls for the installation of the XL Reporter on the pump house Scada system. This quote is better than the one received from Electrical Installations. Dan seconds, Joan is in favor. Pete will make the call to Richard at Laviolette to schedule the work.

Pete Updates:

Plans for moving ahead with getting work done up in Mittersill this summer. Pete has confirmed with Scott Leslie that the Town would pave after the work is done by the water department.

Pete will confirm a quote from LRW for the work to be completed from Mittersill Road to the end of Woodchuck Lane. Any cost difference would be the tie in to Bridal Veil. The plan would be to install the new water line on the other side of the road and then for one day tie in all of the customers to the new line avoiding any long term water shut offs, and hopefully only needing to shut off for short periods during one day. We would let customers know in plenty of time with email notifications and posting signs.

Pete recommends that the department consider researching how to tie in Well 4 up in Mittersill. This is a well that was shut down years ago but it could be a valuable source to the system if brought back to working order.

With no further business to attend to, Darrel moved to close the meeting at 6:08pm. Dan seconds and all are in favor.

These minutes of the Franconia Water Department have been recorded by its Secretary. Though believed to be accurate and correct they are subject to additions, deletions and corrections by the Board of Commissioners of the Water Department at its next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. They are being made available at this time to conform to the requirements of New Hampshire RSA 91-A:2.