

**ALTON WATER WORKS
67 FRANK C. GILMAN HIGHWAY
ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
REGULAR MEETING OF
JUNE 28, 2017**

PRESENT: Chairman Courtney Mitchell
Vice-Chairman Lou LaCourse

Also attending: Sherideth Seeley and Carol Richardson

It was stated to all in attendance, prior to the meeting, that the meeting would be taped for accuracy and erased as soon as the minutes were approved.

- A. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.
- B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Vice-Chairman LaCourse made a motion to accept the agenda, Chairman Mitchell seconded the motion. All were in agreement, the Agenda was accepted.
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 7, 2017.

Vice Chairman LaCourse made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Special Meeting of June 17, 2017, Chairman Mitchell seconded the motion. Vote was taken, all were in agreement.

Signing of The Minutes of the Meeting of May 18, 2017 as amended and approved on June 7, 2017.

- D. PUBLIC INPUT: Sherideth Seeley asked why the rate increase for this season. Vice Chairman LaCourse stated that the year round customer is billed an average of \$864.00 a year. The Commissioners felt that the seasonal customers should be paying approximately the same base rate for the six months that is available to them.

Chairman Mitchell added that because of the drought last year, a lot of wells and public water systems dried up. The DES (Department of Environmental Services of the State of New Hampshire) is requiring accountability as to the amount of water that is being used. The seasonal accounts are going to be metered so it is known how much water is being used for all accounts. The summer lines have not been metered. However, this year, because last year we had at least 15 leaks in the summer lines, this needed to be narrowed. The summer lines need to be metered, which entails excavation, cost of building a structure to put the meters in, and the cost of the meters themselves which is just under \$4,000.00 for the two meters. This is only to meter the two summer lines. If we were to meter each cottage on the summer lines, you would be responsible for the meter, the cost of leasing the meter, the installation of the meter, each cottage would be required to have a shut off valve installed, the basic rate, plus usage over 1,000 cubic feet. If the property is not heated in the winter, the meter would have to be removed, stored, and reinstalled in the spring.

Ms. Seeley asked if we were leading towards metering individual properties and Chairman Mitchell replied that only the 2 summer lines were going to be metered, one for the accountability and two so that we can research the amount of water that is actually being used by the seasonal customers. One is a 2" line and one is a 4" line and both the lines will be metered. The DES takes an active part in the usage of the water system and requires that there be a maximum loss, due to leaks etc., of 10% or less. This was probably the least burden on the seasonal customers, to cover the cost of being able to meter the lines for usage. Also the cost of the turning on and off of the individual cottages went from \$25.00 to \$50.00 which is more in keeping with service rates. The commissioners came up with what they believed was a fair way to be able to pay for the necessary equipment to monitor the water usage.

Ms. Seeley asked how many wells we have and Chairman Mitchell responded that we have 2. There is one at Levey Park and one at Jones Field. One well is used at a time. One is generator powered and the other is not. Both pump houses have to be equipped and maintained, along with the cost of the chemicals needed for both stations, and testing each month for DES. Alternating wells allows each well to have a recovery time. We found that when the summer lines were turned on the hours that the pump ran when from approximately 8 hours a day to 13 hours a day.

Ms. Seeley understands the reasoning for the raise in the rates but in her opinion everyone should have been notified beforehand that this was going to happen.

Vice Chairman LaCourse agreed. Chairman Mitchell agreed that it should have been handled differently. The Commissioners were focused on looking at the accountability and needed a quick resolution. The commissioners have been trying to make a lot of changes this past year and now we have a full board and hopefully this will make a difference. Chairman Mitchell apologized for the whole board concerning the way the rise in rates was handled. This was the quickest way to get the resources to be able to get monitoring for the summer lines.

Ms. Richardson suggested that we should have at least included a notice explaining the rate increase.

The Alton Water Works also intends to replace some of the old pipes along the summer lines. This will solve some of the rust issues as well as cost of repairing reoccurring leaks.

Ms. Seeley asked if the meters had been installed. Chairman Mitchell responded that the meters are here, some additional fittings need to be purchased and a structure built to hold one of the meters.

We have been doing hydrant flow testing, we had anticipated replacing some of the line at the bay when the work was being done there, but time constraint didn't work.

As soon as they are installed, we will be able to account for the water used in the summer lines. Right now the amount of water pumped is much higher than the amount that we know is used by those that are metered.

Ms. Richardson mentioned that her water was rusty. Chairman Mitchell responded that her property was on the line that we hope to get replaced. When the summer lines are not used very much, the rust will build up in the lines. This can be cleared by running the cold water for up to 10 minutes to clear the rust. Our system has more stringent rules and regulations than those who bottle water.

Ms. Richardson thanked the commissioners for all their hard work and allowing them to come to the meeting to express their concerns. Chairman Mitchell and Vice Chairman LaCourse thanked both Ms. Richardson and Ms. Seeley for coming and voicing their concerns.

Ms. Seeley asked if water can be pumped from the lake for irrigation. Chairman Mitchell believes that you can for irrigation but do not tie a line into the residence. If the lake line went into your house you would be required to install a backflow preventer so that there would be no possible way that the lake water could backflow into our system and would require testing on a regular basis.

Water conservation is a huge issue especially after the drought of last year. There were a lot of people that had no water. We had kept the Levey Park water spigot on as long as possible so people could get water. As the end of October came, the line had to be shut down so it would not freeze.

Ms. Seeley suggested a newsletter as the information she received tonight was very informative. Again, the commissioners apologized for raising the rates with no warning but that was the fastest way to get the funds needed to meter the summer lines.

We will be updating the website so information can be available to everyone.

E. CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

F. DEPARTMENT REPORT TO THE COMMISSIONERS: Levey Field pump, as of 06/17/2017 is running an average of 13.3 hours per day @ 217,301 gallons per day.

Levey Park, we just did the IOC Nitrates and SOC sampling and it is running. Mr. Noyes had suggested that Jones Field be put on line to handle the summer lines. Chairman Mitchell thought that was a good idea.

Vice Chairman LaCourse voiced that the testing results that come back really don't have a lot of information on them. They will state what the levels of different chemicals are but not what the parameters are for any particular test. Bacteria is either present or not but other results tell what levels the DES deems as being high or low but not what levels are acceptable.

Barnes Ave. and School Street valves were marked. Hydrants are being painted.

G. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

H. NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Mitchell ordered new T-shirts for the men.

I. OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chairman LaCourse made a motion to adjourn, Chairman Mitchell seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

Respectively submitted:
Penny Williams - CLERK

DATE SIGNED

COURTNEY MITCHELL - CHAIRMAN

LOUIS LACOURSE - COMMISSIONER