

**ALTON WATER WORKS
67 FRANK C. GILMAN HIGHWAY
ALTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2015
REGULAR MEETING**

PRESENT: Chairman Paul White
Vice Chairman Richard Glidden
Commissioner Stephen Miller
Superintendent William Curtin

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: Motion was made by Chairman White to call the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Vice Chairman Glidden seconded the motion.

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Vice Chairman Glidden made a motion to accept the Agenda as read, Chairman White seconded the motion. Vote was taken, all were in agreement, and the Agenda was accepted.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Vice Chairman Glidden made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 29, 2015. Motion was seconded by Chairman White. Commissioner Miller abstained. Vote was taken; both Chairman White and Vice Chairman Glidden were in agreement. The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 29, 2015 were accepted as read.

D. PUBLIC INPUT: Joan Blackwood and Karen Poor from the Garden Club were in attendance. They would like to install irrigation systems in the town and wanted to request that they not be charged for the water service.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to “Allow the Garden Club un-metered water for the areas specified by their plan.” Vice Chairman White seconded the motion for discussion.

Superintendent Curtin said that all services need to be metered. Vice Chairman White would like to know how much the connections would be for the system. Ms. Blackwood stated that the Garden Club is willing to pay for all the costs of installation. Vice Chairman White would be more agreeable to providing the hookups and labor to the Garden Club with the understanding that the Highway Department will do the ground work. The question was brought up as to the maintenance of the meters and valves. It was stated that the Town Administrator would have the lines blown out. Chairman White would like to change the wording of the motion to reflect that in the spring, the Highway Department, in cooperation with the Water Department, can assess the cost of the water, until we resolve whether or not to charge Parks and Recreation for the water because of municipal title, he would have to put the Garden Club on the same level.

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Commissioner Miller called for a vote. Vice Chairman Glidden asked if there had been any thought to going to the Community House and pumping the water from the lake, using the basement to house the pumping system. Ms. Blackwood voiced concern that a pump at that area would cause concern for the swimming area. A centrifugal pump with a suction line should not cause any problems for the swimmers in that area. But by doing it that way, they would have to cross two driveways and would cost the Garden Club significantly more.

Commissioner Miller again stated the motion to “Allow the Garden Club un-metered water for the purposes of irrigation in areas specified by their plan.” There was no response.

Chairman White stated that based on the Garden Clubs meeting with the board of selectmen and the highway department, to see that this is all in process. So until the whole process is put in order, which will probably be next spring, the water service will remain unbilled, and in the spring, at which time we can then decide exactly what ever body wants. Until all inputs have been negotiated, the Garden Club will be gaining free water un-metered, however based on the final results, we may have to say that Parks and Recreation will have to be billed. Motion was made by Chairman White to amend Commissioner Millers Motion to replace “un-metered water to “free water”. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. All were in agreement. The motion is to read “Allow the Garden Club free water for the areas specified in their plan.” Vote was taken, all were in agreement.

E. CORRESPONDENCE: Mr. Kevin Hanley, 46 East Side Dr., submitted a letter to the Commissioners voicing his displeasure of the repair of his water service. Discussion was held as to the basis of the service call. A phone call was made to Mr. Hanley asking if he could attend this meeting and he stated that he could not but could be available for the next meeting. The Commissioners formerly invited Mr. Hanley to appear at the next Regular Meeting along with the lady that was at the jobsite, which is to be held on September 23, 2015 to finalize and resolve any differences.

Email from Rick Skarinka, DES. He had received the plans for the replacement of the line under the bridge at the bay and he listed what he would require in order for the work to proceed. Superintendent Curtin will speak to David Collier, the person who did the survey to clarify the information in regards to permanent easements. Peter Julia will make any necessary changes to the plans as required by DES. If Superintendent Curtin does not hear anything from Bill at DES by Friday August 28, 2015, he will call him. Discussion was had concerning the status and procedure of the job when permits have been received.

F. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT: Jones Field pump is running an average of 21 hours per day @ 270,900 gallons per day. It was determined that one reason the water pumped was up is

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that the town is busy and the weather had been seasonally hot and many sprinklers have been running. We now have a daily check on the reservoir level.

Commissioner Miller, having acquired an average, per person, water usage figure, along with the number of customers we have, making consideration for sprinklers, using 40 gallons per day per person calculates to approximately 98,000, 99,000 gallons per day of usage. The pump is generating 288,000 per day, which would mean that somewhere a 190,000 gallons per day are leaking. Commissioner Miller suggested that all the meters be read then read again in one week to see where the usage stands. This would not help due to the fact that not all services are metered. All summer services are billed flat rate and are not metered. Superintendent Curtin provided some prior well readings and the water usage has not fluctuated greatly. We do have leaks and have been addressing them as quickly as we can. We did have Granite State Rural Water Association come and check the lines for leaks. They did find a few but no really large leaks. We do know we have a lead in the Lake by the bridge which has been slowed down but not stopped. We are still waiting the State approval to be able to proceed.

Commissioner Miller is still concerned about the flow to the hydrants on Pine Street. Each individual hydrant has water. When all hydrants are opened the flow drops. Discussion was had on the subject.

Motion was made by Chairman White to accept the Superintendents Report; Vice Chairman Glidden seconded the motion. A Vote was taken and all were in agreement to accept the Superintendents Report.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

Church Street and School Street – The Alton Water Works dug it up and found an 8” line off from 140 and an 8” line under the side walk and a 6” line to Pine Street. This is where Granite State detected a leak. It turned out to be a tee that water was running through and sounded like a leak. There was no leak.

School Street and Main Street – An attempt was made to replace the valve that was leaking with a new 6” valve. It turned out to be a 4” line. The plan now is to tap into Main Street with a 6” tap, put two sticks of pipe in with a 4” valve and then connect to the 6” line. Then shut down Main Street line and down the bottom of School Street, cut out the old valve and put a 4” cap on it. This has been scheduled for September 3, 2015.

Levey Park Floor has been painted with 2 coats.

Replace Galvanized pipe at Pop’s Clam Shell – Vice Chairman Glidden suggests that where the line was dug up last year and found plastic, dig back to the curb box and replace the galvanized

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line with plastic. Costs would be at least a day's labor and the plastic pipe. To be done before frost.

Line replacement on East Side Drive – Needs to be done as soon as possible. There are leaks every week on that line.

Bay Hill curb stop – The Highway Dept., while they were working on Bay Hill, helped locate the curb stop at Lancer Lane and we replaced the rod and box. A copper line was going in to the valve and white plastic line coming out, were left intact.

School cistern- Commissioner Miller contends that the school should not have to pay for the water needed for the cistern because if the hydrants worked there would be no charge to use the water from the hydrants and the school would not need the cistern. Commissioner Miller made a motion "To forgive that part of the water bill which was generated to fill the cistern to Alton Central School." The cistern was filled with a hose using approximately 22,000 gallons of water without the water department's knowledge. That amount of water would be billed at approximately \$240.00. There was no second on the Motion. Chairman White asked why the department was not notified when the cistern was filled. Commissioner Miller asked why. And Chairman White replied that when the cistern was being filled, the department noticed the water usage and became concerned that there was a major leak that they were unable to locate.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

Rate Change – A draft was provided of the letter to our customers and given to the Commissioners. It was also suggested that it be added to our Rules and Regulations to review the rates every June to assess whether or not an adjustment needs to be made. Another meeting is to be scheduled to discuss the amount of the rate increase. Commissioner Miller suggested that we have a public meeting so any of the public that wished to participate in the discussion, would be able to.

Figures will be compiled in order to know where everything stands in order to make the decision of what the increase would be.

This year there was an increase of \$40.00 for each customer equaling \$27,500.

The balance on the new well at Jones Field has 7 years left which will release approximately \$41,320 per year with 3% interest. Commissioner Miller feels that this should be refinanced asking for additional funds to start repairs. Chairman White understands what Commissioner Miller is saying but if we were to go to the town to borrow money they would ask if the water department will still be around since Commissioner Miller wants to abolish the Water Commissioners. Commissioner Miller suggests borrowing the money from the town using their bargaining powers and if the Commissioners are abolished and the town takes over the water department, they would be assuming their own debt with them having control over the revenues.

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Commissioner Miller stated that he will go ahead with trying to abolish the commissioners. This action by Commissioner Miller puts Chairman White in somewhat of a tenuous position. Chairman White says that small but progressive moves are being made. We now have another person to help with the work load.

Chairman White has been working with the superintendent, which may be Manager, equally but yet from a standpoint of decision to get everyone on line to get the work done. We want people to see that there have been changes. He wants to make this dept. work, it is working, and we are having our difficulties but still moving forward.

Chairman Miller feels that the department would be better off run by a cash cow that had the ability to take the water depart to the next step. Superintendent Curtin mentioned that all this goes back to when he was a water commissioner and the dept. was about \$30,000 in the hole and they raised the rates which allowed the arrearage to be paid off with in about a year and a half and also allowed for moneys to be put aside. In applying for a grant, they would want our rates increased and if that is done we would not need a grant. Our rates are considerable lower than most. The average water fee is approximately \$500 per year. The Alton basic charge is \$90.00 a quarter, \$360 a year and that is \$140 less than the average. Commissioner Miller feels that, over 3 years the rate should be able to reach the average. It was discussed, at an earlier meeting that the rates be evaluated every June to decide whether or not an increase is necessary.

Chairman White believes that when the all changes have been implemented, and on the other hand he would be most interested, if Commissioner Miller would brief the commissioners on how his Warrant will read. Commissioner Miller said that he absolutely will and will not keep the Commissioners in the dark at all. Commissioner Miller believes that the dept. is in over its head that it would be more efficient with a larger dept. with more cash and resources, such as the highway department, would be able to do a better job. Chairman White stated that there was an excellent relationship with the highway department and the last time we asked for help they were there in 20 minutes with equipment and crew.

Commissioner Miller asked if something was sent to the customers relaying Revenue and Expenditures. We do not, but all that information is in the town report at the end of the year. He feels that if a statement were provided to the customers, perhaps every 6 months, they would have a better understanding of what the water department is doing. Perhaps a newsletter sent periodically just describing everything that had been accomplished would help people understand what the water department does. As in last winter when there was a problem, all the media reported was what went wrong and not how everyone pulled together to solve the issue.

Discussion was had concerning the budget.

2016 Budget workshop - Superintendent Curtin is to meet with the Town Administrator Bailey

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on September 9th and October 6, 2015, the budget should be ready the first of next week and the workshop will be scheduled as soon as it is ready. As a courtesy, we present the budget to the selectmen and the budget committee.

I. NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

J. ADJOURNMENT: Motion was made by Chairman White to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Glidden, vote was taken, and all were in agreement motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am.

Respectively submitted:
Penny Williams - CLERK

DATE SIGNED

PAUL WHITE - CHAIRMAN

RICHARD GLIDDEN - VICE CHAIRMAN

STEPHEN MILLER - COMMISSIONER

WILLIAM CURTIN – SUPERINTENDENT