

**Board of Commissioners
Minutes
October 15, 2018
(approved December 17, 2018)**

Present: J. Comer, G. Keller, W. von Schoen, D. Provencher, Superintendent R. Miner, Business Manager/Water Quality Support J. Lavoie

Excused: T. Pellegrino

A consultation with G. Michael, Attorney, was held in Non-Public session. No minutes were recorded for this attorney/client consultation.

Financial Review – September 2018 – Michele Holton

No financial review was available at this time.

- 1. Approve minutes from the August 20, 2018 Public Session (tabled 9/17/18 pending language clarification), September 7, 2018 worksession and the September 17, 2018 Public Session.**

The review of these minutes was tabled to the November meeting of the Board.

- 2. Board of Commissioners to hear update from NHDES regarding their investigation of PFAS in the Wells 7 & 8 area and Amherst Industrial Park. (*Public comment will not be received for this presentation.*)**

Clark Freise, Brandon Kernan, and Rick Skarinka from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) were present for this update.

B. Kernan noted that there is on-site testing at TCI in this area. Water quality is being monitored and monitoring at other wells. The Amherst Industrial Park is on septic systems. The water at wells 7 & 8 is currently testing between 20-30 ppt. Areas within 1500 feet of the wells are testing at 100 ppt. The levels in wells 7 & 8 increase in dry times. TCI is a potential contamination source. It is possible that there are additional contamination sources in the area. There is a fair amount of work still to be done. Wells 7 & 8 were off due to construction of the treatment plant when the contamination was found. There is a need to understand the flow of the water when wells 7 & 8 are on and when they are off. This is a critical watershed. Over 100,000 people use the water from this watershed. A remedy for this site is probably years in the making.

C. Freise noted that GENX has not been found in the samplings taken to date. NHDES is trying out new methodologies to further test for chemicals. This is a slow process. He noted that a potentially responsible party is TCI.

B. Kernan noted that investigations in this area are funded by NHDES and USEPA. There are no noticeable trends at wells 2 & 3. He noted that additional parties besides TCI may also be responsible.

M. Metcalf, UEI, noted that the treatment plant at wells 7 & 8 will treat 1,250 gpm. There is additional area for expansion for new possible wells at this site.

B. Kernan noted that the application for the Source Water Protection grant is due November 1, 2018. This grant would be in the amount of \$20,000. He noted that the MVD is currently in good shape to receive such a grant. The District's wells are not currently approaching 70 ppt.

J. Emery, EGGI, noted that there is peat in the Witches' Brook area. This leads to the possibility of natural treatment of the water in this area. He questioned whether there is a proposed groundwater treatment zone in the area of TCI. C. Freise noted that this is not happening at this time. The investigation of this area is taking longer than NHDES wants it to take. The hope is that there will be additional information available with the report coming out.

K. Pratt noted that the District has spent \$4.3M (SRF loan) and \$450K from Capital Reserves for the treatment at wells 7 & 8. B. Kernan noted that there is a question of whether wells 7 & 8 are causing the problem to change.

C. Freise noted that proposed numbers for the allowable levels of these chemicals will be presented on January 1, 2019, but it is unknown when these standards will be set by the state.

J. Emery questioned whether TCI and the Industrial Park are continuing to affect the groundwater. B. Kernan noted that these entities have been told to cease their discharge. C. Freise noted that past releases are continuing to impact groundwater. J. Emery noted that some level of stabilization in the soils is possible. C. Freise noted that New Hampshire is one of the few states that has an enforceable standard.

3. Board of Commissioners to hear update from Underwood Engineers regarding:

a. Capital costs of PFAS treatment

M. Metcalf noted that a draft copy of the report on this issue has been completed. Some additional language may be incorporated based on the NHDES presentation just made to the Board. The treatment for PFAS at wells 7 & 8 will need two 12 foot diameter vessels for GAC to treat 1,250 gpm. The cost for

this treatment will be approximately \$3.6M with an O&M of \$70,000 to \$135,000 per

year based on the life of the GAC. The cost for resin treatment would be approximately \$4.4M with an O&M cost of \$320,000-910,000 per year.

Treatment for well #2 would be designed for 1,500 gpm. The cost for the construction of the treatment would be approximately \$4.3M for GAC and \$5.1M for resin with O&M costs for GAC of \$80,000-145,000 per year and O&M costs for resin of 330,000-940,000 per year.

Treatment for well #3 would include PFAS and Iron and Manganese. Treatment with GAC would cost approximately \$6.9M with a yearly O&M cost of \$90,000-125,000. Treatment with resin would cost approximately \$7.4M with yearly O&M costs of \$250,000-610,000.

Combining treatment of wells 2 & 3 for PFAS and Iron and Manganese would cost approximately \$10.9M with yearly O&M costs of \$120,000-185,000 using GAC. This treatment using resin would cost approximately \$12.2M with yearly O&M costs of \$405,000-1.08M.

M. Metcalf noted that treatment goals may change causing these numbers to change. Work would begin in the Spring of 2019.

A report will be issued within the next couple of days.

b. Progress on the Rate Study

K. Pratt noted that the District's last rate increase was in July 2011. He noted that the preliminary number show a baseline increase in the amount of 2% in FY20 and 11% in FY21. This is what is projected to be needed to maintain existing infrastructure. The proposed capital projects require an increase of 10% in FY22 for PFAS treatment at wells 7 & 8 and an increase of 39% (with the increase of 10% in FY22 included) in FY22 if treatment is done at wells 2 & 3. These rate increases total a rate increase of 52% over FY20 through FY22. Of this total increase 28% would involve the construction of treatment for PFAS. This increase would keep the reserves at the current levels. The draft rate model report will be issued soon and these numbers may change slightly.

- 4. Board of Commissioners to authorize the *Final Grant Application* for the Wells 4 & 5 Treatment Plant grant in the amount of \$405,000 from the 2018 Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund.**

A motion was made by W. von Schoen and seconded by D. Provencher to move that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to submit the final grant application for Wells 4 & 5 in the amount of \$405,000. The motion passed 4-0-0.

5. Board of Commissioners to discuss the Bid Tabulation provided by Horizons Engineering, Inc. for the water main extension project for private well hood ups and MVD's Additive Alternative.

R. Miner explained that approval is needed from the Board of Commissioners to the water main extension on Wire Road that will be piggy-backed on the St. Gobain Performance Plastics (SGPP) project that is being done by Horizons Engineering, Inc. The cost for this project would be \$266,465. R. Miner noted that this would be a way to extend the water mains within the District. This will add approximately 1,500 feet of pipe to the distribution system.

W. von Schoen noted that this extension makes total sense, but not for this amount of money. R. Miner noted that the price for this extension will never be lower. D. Provencher asked if any residents along the Wire Road/Bryant Circle waterline extension asked for this. R. Miner noted no requests were received. W. von Schoen noted that if the area SGPP is responsible for should shift or expand, this area would be included so hook ups to homes will be much quicker with this extension.

A motion was made by G. Keller and seconded by J. Comer to move that the Board of Commissioners, acting as agents to expend, request from the Merrimack Trustees of Trust Funds, the withdrawal of up to \$266,465 from the System Development Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of expanding water service to Wire Road and Byrant Circle as an Additive Alternate to the Saint Gobain agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. The motion passed 3-1-0 with D. Provencher voting in the negative.

6. Board of Commissioners to discuss the draft survey relative to PFAS.

This item was tabled pending a worksession.

7. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

8. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

9. Superintendent's Report

Turkey Hill Road Booster Project – An account has been set up for this project for the state funds.

R. Miner vacation – R. Miner noted that he is taking 2 weeks of vacation starting tomorrow morning.

10. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public at this time.

11. Questions from the Press

There were no questions from the press at this time.

Adjourn

A motion was made by G. Keller and seconded by W. von Schoen to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Pointon, Recording Secretary