

August 31, 1971

The Antrim Planning Board met at the Selectmen's office on the above date with the following present:

Howard Humphry, Sr., Stanley Tenney, Robert Flanders, Harold Grant, Andrew Lane, Robert Dunlap, Dana Healey, Charles Gilmore, Theodore Hardwick and Robert Caughey.

A rough map of the "French" land was presented by Robert Caughey, representing about 25 acres. An option has been obtained for one year, at a price of \$8,000. Mr. Caughey said only about nine acres would be suitable for a land fill operation.

Mr. Humphry and Mr. Caughey attended a meeting in Concord with the Farmers Home Administration and learned we were next on the list for funds from F.H.A.

The cost of the interceptors and filtration treatment plant would be paid by Federal funds. Mr. Metcalf (F. H. A.) said a grant of 50% would be made available for the town's share of expense, and would guarantee the Town's Bond issue to cover the cost of sewer. The amount estimated for the Town's share of expense is \$300,000. State and Federal aid should cover 90% of cost of the Treatment Plant. The problem of the treatment plant can hopefully be resolved before Town Meeting is held in March.

Some points brought out by Mr. Caughey were:

1. If we only put in a partial system we could lose State aid.
2. The Bennington site is best for a dump.
3. If voted down our present dump can be closed by the State; the deadline was set for December 1, 1971
4. Value of land that abutts the sewer will be increased.

The estimated cost of our share of expense to operate Bennington dump is estimated at \$14,000.

After considerable discussion the group recommended that we purchase the "French" land.

The four articles to be acted on at the September 15th Special Town Meeting will be deferred for action to the March 1972 meeting, as we felt no positive position could be made at this time.

Some seemed to think if it met the State's approval, we could make use of the "French" land for a dump for several years.

A meeting with Bennington officials on September 2nd to discuss the dump and sewer may help make final decisions.

Harold P. Grant
Secretary ProTem

August 31, 1971

This memo is intended to summarize the results of the meeting of Thursday, August 26, 1971, in the offices of the FHA in Concord.

Present for the Government: Cloyes Gleason, District Supervisor
Paul Fenton, Jr., County Supervisor
Richard Mansfield, Engineer
(out of the FHA Montpelier Office)

for the State: Clarence Metcalf of the Water Pollution Board

for Anderson-Nichols: Wesley Brown
Lindsay Collins

for Antrim: Douglas Hatfield, Esq.
Robert Caughey
Harold Humphrey

for Bennington: Norman Makechnie, Esq.
Erving LeCain
Garnet Mills

This meeting was requested by the FHA to review the Bennington-Antrim sewage project and the possibility of their furnishing aid towards the collection systems of each town. Greatly to our surprise, they indicated that this was the top priority project for the next available funds for their office and that this priority was established in consultation with Mr. Metcalf. We were further led to believe that EPA would be very much influenced by Mr. Metcalf and his office in establishing aid priorities for New Hampshire. They talked quite firmly of the strong possibility that if the two towns were to authorize the necessary bonding at the March Town Meetings, we could go into construction in the summer of 1972. What brought about this dramatic change in timing is very unclear. I can't help but feel that it must relate to Jim Cleveland's interest in the project.

Having established this basis, the FHA people told us that using a checklist of required documentation which would be necessary for the clearance of this project in Washington, that they wanted to assign responsibilities and establish priority dates for the submission of the various items of information that they would require. They stated that they wanted to clear this project through Washington by late fall with the intention of having approval completed by the end of the year.

Paul Fenton of the Concord Office is to be the coordinator of this project and Richard Mansfield of the Montpelier, Vermont, Office is not only the engineer, but quite obviously the man who "has all the answers". Incidentally, we were all quite impressed with Mr. Mansfield.

We then proceeded down the list of the required documents and assigned responsibilities -- mostly at this time to the town attorneys -- and in most cases established a target date of October 1st.

Mr. Mansfield also informed us -- and this was the first time that anyone connected with this project had ever heard of this -- that the FHA would usually, as a matter of standard policy, bid in the bond issue at an interest rate of 5%, the purpose here apparently being to establish a maximum interest rate at the 5% level. He was careful to point out that this is on the basis of a thirty year bond issue and later on the comment was made that they can only give the maximum aid available through FHA on projects which are funded on a thirty year basis on the theory that if a shorter number of years is possible, then the maximum aid is not required. In view of this information, it is an open question as to whether we will need a fiscal agent and this is something that we must explore quite carefully with town attorneys.

The FHA, when questioned, seemed to fully appreciate that before going to a Town Meeting to ask the voters for a bond issue, we would need to have very precise figures as to what aid would be available to us and stated quite firmly that we would have that information prior to a Town Meeting. They will guarantee that the funds will be available when EPA and State funds are available. This does leave unresolved the problem of State funds which we will have to review separately. We were asked what bank we would intend to use as our depository bank and it was suggested to us that we would normally use our regular bank, which is the First National Bank of Peterborough (for Bennington, that is). Towards the close of the meeting, after the checklist had been thoroughly covered, we raised the question with Clarence Metcalf related to the eligibility of this project for EPA aid in view of the large element of industrial participation. It was fully agreed that this question would have to be resolved before we could go much further and Metcalf committed to go to see Mr. Peterson of EPA in Boston accompanied by representatives of the two towns and Anderson-Nichols people to attempt to clarify this point as soon as the required information was available. It was further understood that Wes Brown would be responsible for gathering this information so that the extent of EPA aid can be established as soon as possible.

Drafts of the agreements between the two towns and between the town and the mill, as well as drafts of the sewer ordinances, etc., will be required very shortly and town counsel must follow up on these. All of this information was very startling and most of us were still in the process of gathering our wits together when we left. It is obvious that there is a great amount of work to be done in the next few months.

Erving A. LeCain

EAL:ajp
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