

*Town of Dunstable*  
**Joint Meeting of the Selectboard & Water Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 14, 2015**  
**Town Hall, Dunstable, MA 01827**

**Convened:** 5:00 pm

**Present:** Kenneth J. Leva, chair, Walter F. Alterisio, members; Tracey Hutton, Town Administrator; Bryan Conant, Chair, Mark Cullen, Water Commission; Brian Rich, Fire Chief

**Contingency Plans for System Failure & Moving Forward**

The Board started off by discussing how to satisfy DEP's requirement for a contingency plan. This included discussion of the overall cost and details about the rental of the hydropneumatic tanks necessary for the contingency. The tanks will be rented from an Ohio based company and the rental agreement will take effect upon the tanks departure from Ohio. The Board then discussed with the Commission the placement of the tanks. There was some thought that they would be placed near, and connected to, the police station. Chief Rich reported that those plans have been changed. The tank will instead be placed in a more elevated location. There was a question of whether sufficient monies are available to take care of the engineering. Chief Rich responded that there are. Moving forward a revised plan for the system will be presented to the town. The current projection is to have that plan ready for the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May.

In the meantime, if the worst happens, the town needs to have enough to operate for up to a year. The emergency tank will be located above ground and, as a result, subject to temperature changes. It will cost approximately \$11,400 for the initial setup of the tanks and about \$50,000 for the year. The above ground tank for emergency failure will be 9,000 gallons and will require heating in winter. There is a real question of whether it can be put in a building or if it will have to be placed outside. This also revolves around the question of where to locate it and if it should be centrally located. There will also be a supply for helping to ensure that water for things like flushing toilets will be available. The Board was less concerned with the mechanics as they were with the funding to represent that the contingency is in place. The 9,000 gallons in the tank will be non-drinkable water. The plan will also include contingencies for providing potable water to residents on the system. It must be emphasized that this plan will only provide a temporary solution.

The Board went back to the issue of the long term solution by discussing the construction of a water tower. Such a tower could be located on Skytop. It would require 2 miles of pipe, which costs about \$1 million per mile. As a result they are now looking at the town forest. The town owns it, and the elevation is good. There was some follow up discussion regarding whether the town forest is the perfect location for this project. It was noted that the town forest location provides the opportunity to run some new pipe, which ultimately allows for betterment fees to help offset the cost. To that end, discussion turned to how many parcels would be affected. There are six parcels between the town forest and where the new pipe would hook into the current system. Additionally, the town forest location would allow for an easier supply link for the high school should they ever choose to link into the town's water system. The Board noted that while a betterment discussion is important to this topic, it cannot be sold to the public that new pipe which only passes six parcels. The public will need to be made aware that the only agenda here is to improve the water system and provide new opportunities for expansion and improvement over time.

It was noted, touching on monies for a revised engineering plan again, that the town has approximately \$27,000 to initiate the re-engineering and re-designing of the solution for the water system. These funds have already been appropriated. The Board then made it clear that the town will need to come up with a long term solution, and since the original proposal has been rejected the re-engineering and re-design of this solution is important. Once a system is approved, the work can start. From the Annual Town Meeting until an operating system is in place, we are looking at a process that will take longer than a year at this point. There were some additional questions regarding the contingency plan and how those tanks would work. The Board stressed that they want to get the contingency plan in place and move forward with a long-term solution so as to avoid a situation where there is system failure and a sudden unplanned special town meeting necessitated. The Water  
*Approved and adopted on 11/2/15*

Commission suggested reaching out to DEP on the issue of just how long the backup tanks can be in place, and further recommended talking to DEP about the towns plan. DEP, they noted, wants to see the town work towards a solution and demonstrate good faith.

It appears that the town can only operate under the contingency kind of circumstance for a period of time, and that period of time should be clarified with DEP. This solution is temporary, but it will establish a plan of action. While fines are possible, they should not be reflected in this proposal because we do not as of yet know what they would be. Ms. Hutton noted she does not know exactly what the towns legal responsibilities are at this point. Chief Rich stated that if water is needed for toilets something could be temporarily worked out with the fire trucks. The Fire Dept. has small pumps that can assist in a pinch. At any point down the line, if there is something interfering with the parallel project of coming up with an alternate design the Board asks that the Commission let them know. The Water Commission agreed and noted that the ultimately location for the will temporary tank will have to be one that allows for an electrical connection and a hydrant.

The Boards adjourned at 5:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jakob K. Hamm', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jakob K. Hamm  
Admin. Assistant to the Selectboard & Town Administrator

*Approved and adopted on 11/2/15*