



CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Municipal Services Department
"The Three Rivers City"

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MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2011

Present: Councilor Jay Bowers (Chairman), Councilor Ted Starkweather, Councilor Scott Clarenbach, Councilor Robert Sharon, Councilor Elect George Dzujna, Councilor Elect Robert Desrochers, City Manager Elizabeth Dragon, Finance Director Judie Milner, Dan Dudley (NHDES), MSD Director Brian Sullivan and MSD Operations Superintendent George Turcotte

Jay called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Old Business:

1. **Willow Hill / Cross Street Water Storage Tank Replacement Project:** Brian Sullivan started the meeting giving an overview of the last MSD meeting. The way it was left, Brian was to find out a deadline on when the City had to decide if the project would go forward, the availability of interconnection money and the potential for bulk water sales to Tilton in the future.

Brian explained there is no interconnection money; the City had to authorize borrowing by November 8th or we would lose the money. The possibility of future water sales, although not certain, is cost effective for Tilton / Northfield, as they are presently looking to site a new well and tank.

Elizabeth summarized the value of adequate volume and availability of the water from a new tank and future customers to increase the customer base. Even though there is a future benefit, it is not there now.

Brian said there are 3 points to consider and it is up to the council if they want to take advantage of remedying a long-existing problem in the Willow Hill Service area. The first is that the 160,000 gallons of usable water of a 500,000 gallon tank. A new tank at a higher elevation would provide for up to 1,000,000 gallons of water. The second is that the City has to pump 140,000 gallons a day to keep the tank full to meet pressure adequacy. The third is the availability of the land and a suitable site with the proper elevation. Brian explained this may be a one-time opportunity, given availability of funds, a low interest rate and the land.

continued

1. Willow Hill / Cross Street Water Storage Tank Replacement Project(continued):

Bob Sharon questioned if the Willow Hill Tank had ever run out of water. George said while the tank was being painted, we had to bypass pumping to the tank.

Bob Desrochers questioned how much it would cost to prep and paint the existing tank. Brian said about \$500,000. Bob pointed out, given this opportunity, a new tank was worth considering.

Judie presented a revised bonding schedule which she reviewed with the group (see attached) and presented three scenarios to finance the loan.

Scott found he did not have a problem making this project work but stressed it is a lot of money to replace one tank in such a limited service area. His concerns continue to be the amount of Capital work necessary, the amount of bonding required and how much of a water rate customers can afford given the amount of sewer work necessary.

Jay stated the 40% grant, availability of land and the low interest rate made this a "now or never".

Bob Sharon pointed out the possibility of at least providing increased fire protection and picking up some additional customers in the Ward Hill area.

Ted stated we are always pushing things out and miss several opportunities by doing so.

Scott compared the cost of repairing the existing Cross Street Tank at \$500,000 and replacing the two West Franklin tanks at \$500,000 which totals 1.5 million dollars and asked Dan Dudley about Davis Bacon requirements, pointing out that the City can potentially fund all three projects on its own. Dan Dudley said Davis Bacon rates do apply, however, with the ARRA work recently taking place on projects, the rates should be competitive in New Hampshire, as other projects in New Hampshire have recently been performed.

After this discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to proceed with the project and bond the amount necessary through a modest rate increase to be projected at 13 cents to 18 cents per 100 cubic feet. They also wanted to bring the rate increase to the City Council in December and set the public hearing for December 5th.

Scott re-asserted that the key is selling water via an interconnection in the future and we need to continue to evaluate this.

continued

Other Business:

Ted questioned whether we exercised altitude valves. He referenced an incident where the Fire Department sucked dry the hydrant on Prospect Street. Brian responded that valves are exercised while flushing is being done and one may have not been opened, however, they also lowered the tank by 60 feet. Brian pointed out that this is one of the reasons that the Cross Street Tank should be replaced, so if there was ever the need for water, the tank would have adequate capacity.

Ted asked for a project update:

Elizabeth gave an overview of work on the downtown project. Left to complete is top course of asphalt, pouring concrete sidewalks and traffic light installation. Additional sidewalk work to be done in spring.


George updated the group on the status of the Water/Sewer Garage on Tannery Street. The site prep is done, the foundation is poured and the builder has started with plumbing.

Brian and George updated the group on the Water Treatment Plant. The timeline is on schedule.

Elizabeth updated the group on the Boat Ramp status. The lease had to be approved by Governor and Council.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by:


Brian J. Sullivan

BJS:mgc