

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
Meeting Minutes ~ January 22, 2007**

Members in attendance: Rick Mattila, Chair; Dave Irwin, Vice-Chair; Tom Burns; Bob Hunter; John MacLeod; Joan Meschino; Ed Petrilak.

Also in Attendance: Jeff Musich, Wright-Pierce; Paul Weisman, Wright-Pierce; Jim Lampke, Town Counsel.

Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:10 p.m.

Public Input: None.

The Chair advised the WRC that as of yet he has not received a response from Prof. Manwell. There are no meeting minutes for approval.

J. Lampke gave a brief discussion regarding open meeting law. The two likely exceptions that may be applicable to the committee's task are strategy relative to litigation and sale, lease or disposition of real property. Discussion in executive session can only be about the narrow topic to which the exception to the open meeting law applies.

Wright-Pierce Presentation:

Wright-Pierce's objective for tonight's meeting is to update business model and cost analysis. Legal analysis is on hold while this work is being completed.

Regarding the conflict question raised at the last meeting, P. Weisman reported that M. Kalpin does not perceive the conflict and has asked his firm to review. J. Lampke agrees that his representation of Wright-Pierce on the feasibility study is not a problem for the town. Even if it were so, any conflict could be obviated by waiver.

The executive summary will conclude that the project is feasible. Wright-Pierce reports that it has done everything it can with the information available. Wright-Pierce would like some additional information from Aquarion. Specifically needed is the water production cost to determine what kind of wholesale deal the town might be able to make with Aquarion. From a legal analysis perspective, there are no fatal flaws.

MOTION by T. Burns, **SECOND** by J. MacLeod, for Wright Pierce to draft a letter to Aquarion requesting certain information for the WRC Chair's signature. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

Next steps include preparing a draft outline for a meeting with the board of selectmen. WRC will hold a public meeting shortly thereafter to allow the public to see a slightly more detailed presentation and to ask more technical questions. Then Wright-Pierce will finalize the report.

The WRC will request a place holder for the annual town meeting to secure some minor funds to continue its work with public involvement (already accounted for in the existing scope of work

and budget), a rate study, initial discussions between the town and Aquarion. Wright-Pierce will provide an estimate.

In anticipation of preparing the annual report, WRC asked Wright-Pierce to draft some bullet points of its accomplishments during the 2006 calendar year.

Hull Municipal Light Board members advised the WRC that the MTC presentation regarding off shore wind study will be Saturday, February 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the High School.

W-P Invoice:

MOTION by J. MacLeod, **SECOND** by E. Petrilak, to approve Wright Pierce's January 2007 invoice. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

Wright-Pierce informed the WRC that it would be circulating a questionnaire electronically seeking committee members input on certain considerations as they conclude.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2007.

Wright-Pierce will prepare a presentation for the Board of Selectmen in March. A possible date of March 13th was discussed.

The WRC member briefly discussed grant opportunities as sources of funding, e.g. Clean Renewable Energy Bond which is issued by the IRS. R. Mattila reported that he spoke with Congressman Delahunt regarding federal funding. The Congressman does not see any earmarked funds that would be available to the town but suggested that we can be creative as we seek funding.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

MOTION by D. Irwin, **SECOND** by R. Mattila, to adjourn meeting. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

9:30 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____