

MINUTES OF THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2014 – 3PM

1. Present: Chairman Walter Liff, Ex-Officio Selectman David McGuckin, Supr. Steve Tabbutt  
Secretary Pamela Cullen

Members: Normand Houle, John Ireland, Walter Glidden

Alternates: Chet Fessenden, Reg Whitehouse

In attendance: Accountant Deb Knowles

Guest: Clint Springer

2. Chairman Liff called the meeting to order at 3pm.

3. Chairman Liff reviewed and read the accounts payable checks to the Commission. Normand Houle made a motion to accept checks as read. John Ireland seconded the motion. Motion carried. John Ireland made a motion that in the future, due to the time lag for the bills coming from the City of Portsmouth for the water and sewer, the Board will approve Chairman Liff signing on behalf of the Commission for those payments. Selectman McGuckin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. John Ireland made a motion to approve minutes of June 11, 2014 as amended. Walter Glidden seconded the motion. Motion carried

5. Chairman Liff moved to go out of order on the agenda and go to the “Revenue Spread Sheet.”

a. Accountant Deb Knowles created a spread sheet showing the water revenues during the year, and showing the different categories. Knowles explained the coding on the spread sheet. (See attachment)

b. Accountant Deb Knowles provided the Commission with information about how Portsmouth tiers their water system. Knowles talked about the billing system and explained how customers are charged in Portsmouth (see attachment). Knowles also brought paperwork that shows how the City of Portsmouth charges user rates for water. (See attachment)

6. Old business

a. Water and Sewer Ordinances - John Ireland said that he and Pam Cullen reviewed the water and sewer ordinance changes but still had some lingering questions. Ireland told the Commission that he would get together with Cullen to complete the changes, and will bring a copy for everyone at the next meeting in September.

b. Portsmouth public works tiered water rating – John Ireland told the Commission that he will put off the suggested water tiered rate for the town until he can get together with the accountant. Ireland then explained some of the information needed, and will want the Select Board’s approval.

c. 2013 Water Quality Report – Secretary Cullen had mailed the Annual Water Quality Report for 2013 to the New Castle customers.

7. New business

a. August meeting - The Commission discussed the upcoming August meeting with Chairman Liff asking the Commission if they would like to skip the next month's meeting. Normand Houle made a motion to suspend the August meeting of the Water and Sewer Commission subject to any business that could not be held off until September. John Ireland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Bridge Hangers – The Commission discussed the hangers under the bridge from Goat Island to Shapleigh Island. Steve Tabbutt said that about a week ago he went under the bridge in his boat and the hangers appeared to be ok though he could not approach the end near Shapleigh Island. The Commission discussed replacing a portion of the 168 brackets/stringers as an option because of the cost. Selectman McGuckin reported that in February of 2012 the town looked at replacing 100 of the hangers at a cost of \$300 per hanger. The cost to replace all of them would be over \$50K and does not include the cost of the daily labor and machinery. The Commission discussed revisiting this subject every year and to have visual inspections done. McGuckin suggested that he, Steve Tabbutt and Walter Liff set up a date to look at the hangers and possibly take pictures.

f. Sewer application 529B Newcastle Ave. – Steve Tabbutt explained about the sewer arrangements for residents who live on Shapleigh Island in Portsmouth, and the sewer application for William Marconi of 529B Newcastle Avenue. The sewer fee of \$235 has been paid by Marconi. Liff previously approved the application. (See attachment)

g. 180 Portsmouth Avenue – The Commission discussed the sewer application for property owners Eldred, of 180 Portsmouth Avenue. Have they posted a bond? Their sewer application approval is predicated up the bond. The Commission also discussed the sewer application for McEvoy.

h. Resident Clint Springer wanted to talk with the Commission about concerns of the water system in the town, and the town may need to have a hydraulic gradient done. Springer went on to talk about adequate water supply that would be required for a sprinkler system at the school. He then talked about the water supply being limited by what Portsmouth is providing and the need for testing. Springer said he is on the building committee for the new proposed addition for the school and was concerned about some of the Fire Chief's comments. Steve Tabbutt addressed the issue of the hydrants that Blanding had said were not working. Tabbutt then explained about the water pressure being down because of the Sagamore bridge repairs. Springer was concerned about the safety of the town and reiterated the need to have the water lines tested. Selectman McGuckin suggested to have the fire chief come to the September meeting to discuss some of these issues.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.