

MINUTES OF THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014 – 3PM

1. Present: Chairman Walter Liff, Ex-Officio Selectman David McGuckin, Supr. Steve Tabbutt  
Members: Normand Houle, Walter Glidden, John Ireland, Secretary Pamela Cullen  
Alternates: Chet Fessenden, Reg Whitehouse  
In attendance: Accountant Deb Knowles  
Guests: Resident Mundy Tarbell, Builder/Contractor Donald Cook, John Chagnon of Ambit Survey

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

3. Chairman Liff reviewed and read the accounts payable checks to the Board. John Ireland made a motion to approve the checks as written. Walter Glidden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. John Ireland made a motion to accept minutes of April 9, 2014 as amended. Normand Houle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Old business:

a. Follow up re: letter from Fire Ward Reg Whitehouse – Reg Whitehouse said that there are three hydrants that have been repaired at the Common. All four hydrants are in working order at the Common and Selectman McGuckin explained their locations. The town maintains 21 hydrants throughout the town. Steve Tabbutt said Assistant Chief Mark Wooley from the fire department will assist during the periodic hydrant flushing. Some of the hydrants belong to the town and some to Portsmouth. The red hydrants belong to the town and the yellow hydrants belong to Portsmouth. The New Castle Fire Department will now be training at the Common, as the City of Portsmouth has turned off the hydrants at Fort Stark. The Board discussed the hydrant situation at Fort Stark and the impacts this has on Wild Rose Lane.

6. New business:

a. Sewer Application 180 Portsmouth Avenue – John Chagnon, Ambit Survey, presented a sewer plan for 180 Portsmouth Avenue and with an explanation to the Board (Attachment A). The Board discussed sending the plans to the town's engineer for review but determined that was not necessary. A bond will be needed but that will be through the state. The owner will need to apply for a town water and sewer application. Chairman Liff said that the town's approval would be pending state approval.

b. Resident inquiry – Resident Ed Tarbell, 96 Portsmouth Avenue, came to the Board to express some comments and questioning the high sewer bills. He said that Portsmouth has a two tiered system and why can't New Castle follow suit. Selectman McGuckin said that the town is in discussion with the City of Portsmouth with regards to them taking over the town's water and sewer infrastructure and this process is taking longer than anticipated.

McGuckin then said this tiered process was discussed before but when the preliminary discussions began with Portsmouth, the thought process was why change when Portsmouth would take over.

John Ireland said that there is a lot involved to creating the tier system, and previously this idea was considered. Tarbell said that this is not promoting conservation of water but thanked the board for their time. Ireland felt the tier process could be done since the information from the accountant is now more accurate and could copy the Portsmouth model.

c. Letter to residents distributed with 2013 Town Report. Selectman McGuckin said that Attorney Rob Ciandella wrote the letter that was distributed with the town report this past May. The City of Portsmouth has seen the letter and their attorney has reviewed it. (attachment) The Board discussed what would happen to the money in the Enterprise Fund. Some of the funds would be used to minimize the impact of transition and to help defray costs of the pumps.

d. Water quality report – A sample of the 2013 Annual Water Quality Report has been received by the Board from Portsmouth (attachment).

e. Chairman Liff asked for any other business to come before the board.

1. Steve Tabbutt has not met with the engineer for the grease pit at the hotel and explained that the engineer showed up without calling him first.

John Ireland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Normand Houle seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:13pm

Chairman Liff said that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 11 at 2pm.