

TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON

233 Atlantic Ave
NORTH HAMPTON, NH 03862

Water Commission

Henry Fuller, Co- Chair
Robert Landman, Co-Chair
Tim Harned, Secretary
Richard Bettcher
Jim Maggiore, Select Board Rep

Town of North Hampton
Water Commission Meeting
October 28, 2013



Commissioners in attendance:
Henry Fuller, Co-Chair
Richard Bettcher
Robert Landman, Co-Chair
Jim Maggiore, Select Board Rep

DRAFT

Guests present for Agenda Item 3:
Carl McMorran, Manager, NH Operations, Aquarion Water Co.
John Walsh, VP Aquarion Water Co. unable to attend
John Ratigan, Esq., Town Council

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bob Landman at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Conference Room, Old Town Office, North Hampton, N.H.

2. Minutes: Mr. Fuller moved the approval of the 26 October 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Bettcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0. Discussion of prior approved minutes to correct incorrect meeting dates.

3. Discussion with Aquarion representatives re proposed 2014 WICA projects PUC order 25,584:

Atty Ratigan mentioned that service line (pipe between street mains and homes) had a very replacement rate of 7 per year. Mr. McMorran said that typically, 24 lines/year fail. He then discussed the various types of service lines, recommending Type K copper, that perhaps the town's building inspector would ensure that this be required in new construction or in replacements. Mr. McMorran noted that occasionally, the company sends a notice with the billing that the company offers an insurance policy ~\$70/year. Commissioners agreed that this was a reasonable charge compared to the cost to homeowners for excavation and pipe replacement, especially for homes more than 50 years old.

Motion by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Bettcher, to ask the building inspector if the town requires that the town building code require AWWA standard Type K copper service line and if not, that the code be amended to include this requirement. Discussion. Motion approved, 4-0

Motion by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Bettcher, to insert in the next Library newsletter a discussion of the company's insurance for service lines. Discussion. Motion approved, 4-0

Handouts from Aquarion re WICA: Capital Projects-WICA, Main Replacements, non-WICA projects, operating highlights

Will 2013 surcharge be delayed to next rate case? Aquarion is proposing to delay implementation.

Motion by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Bettcher to approve delay. Discussion. Motion approved 4-0.

Aquarion wants to delay the start of monthly meter reads until 2015. Commissioners disapproved of the delay stating that quarterly bills can be a shock to consumers (and the town) when a leak goes undetected for 90 days. That the library had a toilet leak and the bill was very high.

Mr. McMorran said that the company has contracted a company to use hydrophones to detect leaks in the mains to reduce non-revenue water loss. The company has purchased 12 sensors to locate leaks.

Aquarion asks that the water commission have meetings with the company in February, June and October, 2014. Motion by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Bettcher to approve delay. Discussion. Motion approved 4-0.

Commissioner Fuller discussed the town's dissatisfaction with ever increasing cost of the fire hydrants. Commissioners agreed.

Select Board Chair Maggiore commented on the hardship this places on the town budget process as these increases happen after the town has voted the annual budget. Funds must be taken from other line items to pay the water bill (which presently is ~\$275,000/year).

Commissioners advised the company that, in the next rate case, the town will contract a water fire protection rates expert since the PUC has indicated the town must provide expert testimony to counter the company's calculation.

Commissioner Landman noted that according to subdivision regulations (Section X, part D) new subdivisions may be required to be served by Aquarion and that includes additional fire hydrants and additional annual cost to the town. In those areas not served by Aquarion, the subdivider is required, at his expense, to install mains, laterals to all lots, and connections for fire hydrants for future use when public water service is available. Typically, those subdivisions have installed large underground cisterns connected to the mains and fire hydrants for fire protection.

Commissioner Landman had asked if the town is checking the cisterns to ensure they are filled with water in case there is a fire. The former Fire Chief said that was the responsibility of the home owners. Commissioner Landman asks the commissioners why the subdivision home owners pay taxes, a portion of which pays for fire protection and the Aquarion served fire hydrants, and the Fire department, yet the Fire department takes no responsibility to ensure the cisterns are full? The town has a Fire department tanker truck so has the capability to fill the cisterns. They clear the snow and brush around Aquarion fire hydrants. Why don't they inspect and fill the cisterns?

Motion by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Bettcher to ask the Fire department to inspect and fill subdivision cisterns. Discussion. Motion approved 4-0

4. Other Business: No other business was discussed.

5. Schedule Next Meeting: February ? 2014.

6. Adjournment: Mr. Fuller made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Co-Chair
Bob Landman, Commissioner