

Hudson Municipal Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting October 16, 2019

Item 1. Call to order

The monthly meeting of the Hudson Municipal Committee was held Tuesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:00PM, in the board of Selectman meeting room at Town Hall. Secretarial duties were performed by David Shaw. The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM

Item 2. Roll-Call

Member Attendees:

David Shaw, Chairman
Chelsea Prindiville, Vice-Chairman
Bill Abbott
Dalton Perry
Marilyn McGrath, Selectman Liaison
Elvis Dhima – Town Engineer
Jim Lavacchia – Public Works Supervisor

Excused members:

Donna Staffier-Sommers – Administrative Aide - Excused

Item 3. Public Input

The chairman moved item 10 (New Business Sewer, Item 10 A. (Lee Way – Sewer Appeal) to Public input (item 3) for tonight's meeting only.

Public attendees representing Simoneau Excavation LLC were as follows:

Alan Simoneau
Joseph Simoneau
Jon Simoneau, owner
Don Dumont

The public input purpose was to appeal the recent rejection of the Lee Way project (25 Derry street) sewer line by the Town Engineer (Elvis Dhima) and the Public Works Director (Jess Forrence)

Supporting documentation presented to the MUC committee:

- Town of Hudson Inter-office memo from Elvis Dhima (Hudson Town Engineer) and Jess Forrence (Hudson Public Works Director) to the Hudson Municipal Utility Commission, dated October 3, 2019.

This memo listed the reasons for the sewer line rejection as follows:

- 1.) A detected belly in the newly installed pipe, approximately 10 feet in length.
 - 2.) Defections at pipe joints on the town's right-of-way.
 - 3.) Non-straight sewer line alignment between manholes
 - 4.) Significant gaps at pipe joints
 - 5.) Pipe installation in reverse order.
 - 6.) Non-straight sewer pipe alignment from entrance of Lee Way to existing sewer manhole.
- Simoneau Excavation summary letter to the Hudson MUC, dated September 28, 2019.
Also included with the summary:
 - Underground Testing & Services Sewer Line testing report, dated September 27, 2019.
 - IPEX video review summary from Kevin Read, dated September 23, 2019
 - Email correspondence between Alan Simoneau and Kevin Read (IPEX.)
 - PVC Pipe association Technical brief
 - Uni-Bell PVC Pipe News article “Why does my PVC sewer pipe joint have a gap?”
 - IPEX Installation guide for (4” - 48”) PVC Sewer Pipe and fittings
 - Email correspondence between Alan Simoneau and Mark Thompson (Eastern Pipe Serv.)
 - Email correspondence between Elvis Dhima (Hudson Town Engineer) and Jon Simoneau

The Chairman thanked the Simoneau team for attending the MUC meeting. The chairman informed the Simoneau team that the Municipal Utility Commission (MUC) routinely reviews new water plans and abatements and makes recommendations to the Hudson Board of Selectman (BOS). However, the committee does not have the authority to overturn or appeal a decision made by the town engineer. Regarding water or sewer line approvals, the town engineer has sole discretion.

J. Simoneau referenced an IPEX PVC pipe installation guide (Ultra-rib, Ultra-X2, Enviri-Tite and Ring-Tite brands) stating pipe deflection of 5 degrees is acceptable and would not affect hydraulic design. Also referenced were the results of a video review by Kevin Read (IPEX) who stated there would be “no performance or hydraulic flow issues”

The town engineer referenced Appendix B of the inter-office memo (dated October 3, 2019), which contains and excerpt from the Gravity Sewer Installation guide (section 2.2.1 - 4 inch to 12 inch sewer pipe) Section 2.2.1 states all pipe direction changes must be made by bending the pipe radius and that no deflection is allowed on pipes sizes 12 inches or smaller.

The town engineer also raised concerns about the pipe belly being acceptable.



There was some further discussion on which pipe was used, with Simoneau referencing IPEX piping and the town engineer referencing SDR35 as called out in the sewer line plan. The town engineer also referenced Appendix C of the inter-office memo (dated October 3, 2019), which contains excerpts from the New Hampshire Code of Administrative rules part (f), which states “Sewers smaller than 48 inches in nominal diameter shall be laid with straight alignment between manholes”

The town engineer stated the sewer pipe installation was not performed using laser guidance and that the town is not willing to take on the liability for future potential sewer pipe failure due to leakage or clogging. In particular, that it would be the town (not Simoneau, its vendors or distributors) that would be required to respond and repair any future sewer pipe failures.

Jim Lavacchia stated that once installed, there should be daylight visible through the entire pipe length. Jim also clarified that the concern was not a hydraulic issue, but a debris issue due to the belly and multiple gaps in the pipe joints.

The chairman summarized that while the pipe deflection may meet manufacturer and / or distributor standards, it does not meet the town standards.

Selectman McGrath re-emphasized that a laser should have been used to ensure the installation met state and town standards and that the MUC has no authority to appeal or challenge approval decisions made by the town engineer.

Don Dumont inquired as to what issues had to be addressed to be granted acceptance. Elvis Dhima referenced the Town of Hudson Inter-office memo (dated October 3, 2019), which outlined all concerns and required repairs.

The Simoneau Excavation group thanked the committee for their time before leaving the meeting.

Post-public review:

This being the first instance of a contractor appeal request in MUC history, the committee explored the complaint in further detail after the public input. In particular, the committee reviewed the following documentation in detail:

- Kevin Read (IPEX) email correspondence. In particular, the statement dated 9/23: The committee confirmed Mr. Read's statement that “nothing he saw in the video would impede the performance of the sewer pipe”. However, the committee felt this statement was vague as it did not define the performance criteria (such as flow rate vs time, leakage and clog potential). The committee also but also noted Mr. Read's statement that “approval of the line rest solely with the town officials”
- Email correspondences between Alan Simoneau and Mark Thompson (Eastern Pipe Service). The committee noted Mr. Thompson recommended a deflection test to appease the town. The committee reviewed the sewer Line testing Report performed by UTS on August 1st, 2019. The report list (2) tested sections: A 217-foot section from manhole # 1 to manhole #2 and an 86-foot section from “exist” to manhole # 2. Both lengths state a result of “Deflection Passed”, but there is no test criteria or tolerance requirement listed to differentiate passing from failing. The committee also noted Mr. Thompson's refusal to provide an official letter stating he found “no problem” with the sewer pipe deflection.
- Email correspondences between Elvis Dhima (Town Engineer) and Simoneau Excavation. In particular, the committee noted that Simoneau Excavation was advised by Jim Lavacchia that the sewer pipe was “not straight enough” (email from Alan Simoneau, dated September 10, 2019). Jim referred Simoneau to industry standards that state a pipe must be laid straight between manholes, meaning no fittings to create a change in direction. In closing, Mr. Simoneau offered a bond to cover any future replacement costs.

Post-public discussion:

Jim Lavacchia stated a recently installed town-inspected sewer pipe had visible daylight through 160 feet of 12 “ pipe. Elvis Dhima compared that to the Simoneau installed sewer pipe, which lost sight of daylight after only (2) sections. Jim also informed the committee that the town agreed to allow only the town-owned portion of sewer pipe to be replaced, but was deemed unacceptable by Simoneau.

Elvis Dhima added that pipe was installed from the higher elevation to the lower elevation, which is opposite of industry standards. Elvis also noted that other contractors had seen the Simoneau inspection video and deemed the installation sub-standard. In closing, the town engineer stated that Simoneau Excavation LLC does not have a Drain-Layer license In accordance with Hudson Town Ordinance 77, Article X,

Item 4. Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes of the September 17, 2019 Municipal Committee meeting were reviewed
A motion was made by Chelsea Prindiville to accept the meeting minutes dated September 17, 2019 as

presented. Dalton Perry seconded. Motion carried 3-0-1 with Bill Abbott in abstention.

Item 5. Financial Stays – Water

A – C. The expenditure and Revenue reports for September 2019 were reviewed with minor comments.

5592- 269 (Software Maintenance) not funded. Elvis believes this is for the shared Auto-CAD.

D. The White Water monthly report for September was reviewed Elvis Dhima noted the past safety items have been addressed and that white water is staying proactive.

Bill Abbott inquired about a planned Hudson Water Utility Work Order completed in September 2019. In particular, work order HWU2019-163 – Erie rod and box dug out and replaced at 60 Rangers Drive.

Jim Lavacchia explained the Erie box is an underground valve attached by a rod held by a cotter pin.



Item 6. Old Business Water

A. Water Budget Review

Elvis Dhima summarized the water budget.

- The water utility is self-funded
- Large items include:
 - Continued meter replacements (20 – 30 years old and becoming inaccurate)
 - Chemical tank replacement at Ducharme and Weinstein
 - Fire hydrant raise (100 raised to date)

Jim Lavacchia highlighted the recent water main break at Cedar Street that demonstrated White Water's hard work and dedication.

Bill Abbott inquired as to why budget item 5592-450 Water Operations Reserve was not listed as a warrant article. Elvis Dhima explained it could not fit in next year's budget, but surplus funds are directed to the reserve fund. Although the MUC is not selling as much water to Pennichuck this year, the water utility still has ~ \$4 Million in reserves for emergencies.

Item 7. New Business Water - None

Item 8. Financial Status – Sewer

A- C.

The expenditure and Revenue reports for September 2019 were reviewed with minor comments. Elvis Dhima advised the committee on the completion of the \$200KL pump station upgrade

Item 9. Old Business Sewer

A. Sewer Budget Review

Elvis Dhima summarized the Sewer budget

- The Sewer utility is self-funded
- Large items include:
 - The pumps at the Rangers Drive lifting station are approaching end-of-life - \$70K.
 - Sewer inspection camera SW is obsolete.

The Flume between Nashua and Hudson was recently cleaned and inspected with good results for a 50 year old pipe. Recommendation is for future relining of cement over iron to protect ductile pipe.

Jim Lavacchia discussed Warrant Article E (Vac-Con truck replacement) noting the importance of the truck (used by both Sewer and Roadway). The current truck is a 2012 model.

Bill Abbott noted the initial plan was to put \$30K / year for 10 years to purchase new truck. Jim Lavacchia advised the committee that new Vac-con trucks are in the \$400K range (with lower life spans), and that the trade-in value for the 2012 truck is between \$40 - \$65K). Elvis Dhima recommends keeping the old truck as a back-up as previous rentals were \$7k for 3 hours. Selectman McGrath also noted the low return on used fire apparatus.

Item 10. New Business Sewer – Already covered.

Item 11 Informational

Item 12 – Remarks by Selectman, members and staff.

Selectman McGrath presented David Shaw and Bill Abbott certificates of appreciation for recognition of their volunteer service to the town (11 and 17 years, respectively).

There were no remarks from other members or staff.

Item 13 – Next meeting.

The next MUC meeting will be held on November 19th, 2019 in the BOS meeting room

Item 14 - Adjournment

A motion was made by Bill Abbott to adjourn the MUC meeting.
Chelsea Prindiville seconded. Motion carried 4-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM