



TOWN OF HUDSON

Municipal Utility Committee



Jeff Rider, Chairman Ted Luszey, Selectmen Liaison

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Hudson Municipal Utility Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: April 15, 2015

Attendees:

Jeff Rider, Chairman
Bill Abbott, Vice Chairman
Robert Russell
David Shaw
Bernie Manor
Elvis Dhima, Town Engineer
Barbara O'Brien, Water Utility Clerk
Donna Staffier-Sommers, Sewer Utility Administrative Aide

Absent:

Ted Luszey, Selectman's Liaison (appointed 4/14/15)

The monthly meeting of the Town of Hudson Municipal Utility Committee was held Wednesday, April 15, 2015 at 5:00 pm, in the Board of Selectmen meeting room of the Town of Hudson at Town Hall. Secretarial duties were provided by Donna Staffier-Sommers.

1. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the March 18, 2015 Municipal Utility Committee meeting were read and approved with a minor correction. A motion was made by Bob Russell to "accept the meeting minutes for meeting dated March 18, 2015, as corrected" Bill Abbott seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Bernie Manor abstaining.

2. Financial Status – Water Utility

- A – C. The Cash Flow report through February 2015 and the Expenditure and Revenue reports through March 2015 were reviewed with minimal discussion.

- D. The Pennichuck Water Systems Operation Report for February 2015 was reviewed.

Bob Russell questioned the completed scheduled work shown on page 9. Pennichuck is required by contract to complete 400 gate valve inspections this year and none have been done. *Elvis- this will get done after the Road Agent is near completion of the paving program which is expected to wrap up in late October.* Also, 250 meter periodic tests and only 79 have been done through February – will they catch up by the end of the year? Jeff asked Elvis as to why these are not done and what the plan is. Elvis has talked with them about this and they are working on it. *Elvis – As of 4/17/2015 they have completed 90 meter replacements.*

Elvis continued on with his report:

- The wrong water meter was installed at the Route 102 booster station. It will cost the town \$7800 to replace with the correct meter and there is currently no fire protection there. This happened months ago. We were in transition with Engineers and no one else is accepting responsibility for the mistake, so the Town will be taking care of this.
- The Ducharme well is testing with too much manganese and iron. Pennichuck is looking into it.
- Weston & Sampson is working on leak detection on the 6", 4" and 2" inch lines. That is most likely where the leaks are. There are 24 miles of main.

3. Old Business- Water Utility

A. Master Plan update

Most items are on hold. Elvis reiterated that the Town is currently working on the leak detection. We are losing about 20-30% and we need to identify where the leaks are. There were a significant amount of breaks this winter. The overall plan is to work on leak detection first, then the master plan and then asset management.

Elvis suggested that the Town may want to consider creating a water district, similar to the sewer district, to control additional connections to the Town water. Our water supply is a limited resource and we have not located any other water sources for a new well. We may become dependent on Pennichuck to supply us with additional water in the future.

The Town could look into a water purification system using the Merrimack River but that would be costly and not likely to be approved by DES since Pennichuck has a good supply to sell and we have access to it. Bernie asked if creating our own system would be a way to control our water costs. Elvis says that our best

bet, being cost effective, would be to purchase additional water, as needed, from Pennichuck. On the sewer side, it would be cost effective to contribute funds to increase the Nashua Wastewater Plant's capacity from 16 to 20 mgd and gain more sewer capacity for Hudson.

Elvis continued with his report:

- The Gordon Street tank needs to be done by 2016 or it may be shut down by the DES.
- The I/I study is going well with the Highway department and CLD. We should have a full report by next year.
- The Board of Selectmen denied the water access fee waiver request for the Sullivan Road water line extension. The developer hasn't moved forward with the Town. It's possible they will look into installing wells instead of paying for the cost of extending the water line and paying the water connection fees.
- Elvis talked about the process of projects going to the Planning Board. They start with the Planning Board and get a yes or no to move forward. Staff weighs in and if the utilities are available, water and sewer are looked at that time. It stops there if the water and/or sewer plans are not adequate but if so, the plan will then move to the MUC for recommendation and then on to the BOS for approval.
- The water connection fee breakdown was briefly discussed.

Elvis left the meeting at 5:35pm

4. New Business – Water Utility -None

5. Financial Status – Sewer Utility

- A. The cash flow report from February 2015 and the Expenditure and Revenue reports from March 2015 were reviewed with no comments. The balance of capacity is shown at 27,093 gpd.
- B. Bill Abbott provided a water and sewer profit and loss statement graph to the Committee.

6. Old Business – Sewer Utility - None

7. New Business – Sewer Utility – None

8. Informational

1. Election of Officers is deferred to next month.
2. Discussion of sewer expansion – the Town of Hudson Sewer Utility owns 12.58% of sewer capacity at the Nashua Wastewater Treatment plant. At their last meeting, the Board of Selectmen asked the Committee to discuss the possibility of requesting and purchasing an increase in our percentage of capacity from the City of Nashua. The Committee brings this issue up every year they meet with Nashua to go over the anticipated capital expenditures at the plant. Donna is to speak to Gary Webster and get a copy of his map and worksheets prepared when the City of Nashua did approach us a few years ago. At that time, they wanted to know Hudson’s needs if Nashua was able to provide additional sewer capacity.
3. Discussion of televised meetings.
The Municipal Utility Committee meeting is one of the few meetings not televised and the majority of the members prefer it that way. Members stated the meeting is public and anyone is welcome to attend. They believe more is accomplished at the meetings without cameras rolling and the requirement of a more formal format. There was also some discussion at the BOS meeting of reducing the size of the Municipal Utility Committee. Its current seven person membership has two vacancies, so there have been times when a quorum has not been met and a meeting cancelled.

Donna mentioned that the new Selectman liaison assigned to the Committee is Ted Luszey.

Barbara O’Brien talked about the spring water shut offs. Currently there are 98 customers on the shut off list with payment due by April 21, 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07pm with a motion made by Bob Russell and seconded by Bernie Manor. The motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2015.

Donna Staffier-Sommers
Sewer Utility Administrative Aide

