

WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2008

Town Hall Annex
5 Highland Street
Main Conference Room

Meeting Opened: 5:07 p.m.

Members Present: John Edgar, Keith Forrester, Carol Granfield, Jonathan James, Miller Lovett, (Selectmen Representative), Richard Roman, and David Thorpe.

Members Absent: Chuck Lowth, Bob Hill

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of June 12 were approved as presented with the edit provided by Dave Thorpe.

Statistics Review: Dave reviewed production and utilization records and indicated that he has analyzed the past 12 years. Peak days are Mondays at 42%, Saturdays at 24% and Sundays at 19%. Another statistics that baffled Dave is the unaccounted losses, as he noted the first quarter of 2008 was 25.4%, and the second quarter 53%. While the town does have some unbilled meters, Dave will gather the records so it can be further reviewed. Knowing which day the hydrants are blown off would be helpful. Currently there are approximately 1000 meters automatically read. The manual reading process takes about one week. The following reflects what Dave has reviewed for the past few years:

2004 29%
2005 20.6%
2006 29.4%
2007 36%

Other Discussion: There was discussion pertaining to Red Gate Lane indicating there is now good pressure with the 8 inch line. Keith indicated we need to get down the level of the tank to 25 feet and see what the pressure is. He believes that it is not just the line, but that we need to start mixing the tank as he feels the tank is not being circulated the way it is supposed to be. We need to have some scientific data to review. Jonathan concurred that the tank needs to be taken down to thoroughly test the system.

Miller asked if the Committee and Ray Korber are on the same page with information. Dave cited some discussion pertaining to information included in the SEA report that has again been reviewed. He stated that Keith, Ray and he had a lengthy three hour engineer discussion and they are all on the same page. There was also discussion regarding the use of Siemens for upgrades to the system, continuing the meter replacement and the use of Dave Langsfeld for additional training of plant personnel.

Carol indicated that they are currently moving forth on some aspects for improvement already. Dave suggested a letter be written to Carol with some interim recommendations at this time and she can move forth with Ray Korber to implement some.

It was also reported that the Emery and Garrett proposal that was requested by Carol last year has been provided to Chuck Lowth to review which will assist him in his portion of evaluation of supply.

Distribution: Richard presented a map of the town and noted when various pipes were installed, also directing the committee to problem areas in the system.. The system was built in 1972 with pipe having an expectancy of 50 years. The history of several areas is unknown when it was installed. When Bob returns he will further review information. The committee agreed it needs to know where the lines are undersized. This will be further updated at the next meeting.

Rates: Dave noted that Brenda and the consultant are now working on rates, and he reinforced that we need to see what the rates need to be just to service the existing debt and make modest improvements.

Meeting Time: Dave stated he has been in discussion with Chuck Lowth who is unable to attend meetings on Thursdays and asked if the Committee was agreeable to meeting on another day. Following review of varied conflicts, the Committee agreed to try meeting on Tuesdays at the same time from 5 – 7 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 8.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol M. Granfield