

MEREDITH WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE
Minutes of June 17, 2010 Meeting

Town Hall Annex
5 Highland Street
Main Conference Room

Meeting Opened: 5:00PM

Members Present: Paul Anderson, Dan Cornelissen, John Edgar, Miller Lovett (Selectmen's Alternate), Tim Goodheart, Phil Warren and Dave Thorpe, Chairman.

Members Absent: Jonathan James and Chuck Palm (Selectmen's Representative)

Guests: James Emery and John Brooks, Emery and Garrett Groundwater, Inc.; Lou Kahn, CIP Advisory Committee member.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the May 20, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Groundwater Exploration Study

John Brooks and Jamie Emery presented the Phase I report of their groundwater source investigation. The results are positive with several promising sites within town boundaries discovered. The minimum goal is a well producing 100 gpm (144,000 gpd) with 300 gpm (432,000 gpd) desired.

The next step to begin Phase II is to identify landowners in these sites to request their permission to take on-site measurements. Only the most attractive sites with landowner permission will be explored further.

A written report will follow. Phase II of the investigation will continue with completion expected in December 2010.

Water and Sewer Rates:

The water and sewer rate presentation to the Board of Selectmen Monday, June 21, 2010 will be postponed until Monday, July 19, 2010. There is now a requirement to have all presentation material available by 10:00AM the Thursday prior to the workshop. This will require a special meeting or two to resolve some final issues with rates and the rate structure to allow a timely report to be generated by Thursday, July 15, 2010. The committee will be polled to determine these dates.

We reviewed guidelines for setting rates which promote conservation from DES and the New England chapter of the AWWA. These guidelines and our own thoughts generated a list of issues which need to be resolved: Impacts on upper tier users, fire suppression charges, irrigation accounts, rate mitigation for trailer park residents and monthly billing.

The committee agreed that although monthly billing would be a conservation advantage administrative costs and staffing do not allow it to happen at this time.

The issues above were discussed; particularly whether the current proposed rates placed too much burden on the upper tier users. Without quantifying the change desired it was agreed to

look at alternative rates that reduced the upper tier and transferred some of the costs to the middle and lower tiers.

It was generally agreed fire suppression charges will remain but comparison rates will be investigated. The billing practice for irrigation accounts is in question and will be determined and communicated to the committee. A delay or phase-in of the new rates for trailer parks seems to be the preferred method of mitigating increased rates but no final decision was made.

The water and sewer costs to be recovered were discussed and the charts will be modified to show capital reserves that should have been recovered over the last 2 years and to differentiate O+M costs from the additional capital reserves being recommended.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:40PM

Next Meeting: TBD

Respectfully submitted:
David Thorpe, Chairman
June 18, 2010