Waterville Estates District Commission
Water Committee Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Oldmixon at 8:01 AM. The meeting was held at the Community Center, 562 Winterbrook Rd., Campton NH 03223.

Members Present: Jaime Oldmixon, Stan Bujalski, John Herlihy, Terry Bennett (Zoom).

Others Present: Nick Sceggell (Zoom), John Scruton (Zoom, 8:20 am), Kyle McCammon (Zoom, 8:30 am)

Approval of the Minutes of January 26, 2022.

Motion by Bennett, second by Herlihy to approve the minutes of January 26, 2022 with edits.

Motion carried: Yeas: Oldmixon, Bujalski, Herlihy, Bennett. Nays: None

Approval of the Minutes of February 8, 2022.

Motion by Herlihy, second by Bennett to approve the minutes of February 8, 2022 with edits.

Motion carried: Yeas: Oldmixon, Bujalski, Herlihy, Bennett. Nays: None.

Item 1: Asset Management Update.

Mr. Sceggell indicated this will be a limited update. They were unable to set up an appointment with Staff and LWR until Thursday March 3, 2022, 8 am. Questions will get asked and answered. They will review the entire distribution system and get additional data on water levels and usage. Some testing may occur on Thursday. They are working toward finalizing the Asset Management Plan.

Mr Sceggell shared some additional information on the Snowood test well site. A wetland permit and plan was applied for. Work on the access road to the site needs to be done, if this is the preferred site location. Mr. Oldmixon indicated he was contacted by a community member who identified a potential site on Martin Circle. Lewis Engineering indicated no site had been identified there but Novis may have done a fly over to find a fracture.

James Vernon was the contact. Mr. Sceggell indicate they would chase down any information and work with previous WEVD Engineers and Hydrologists. He indicated that this location would be a bedrock well. It is not likely to supply the water rates we are looking for. It could be a supplementary well depending on water quality and treatment needs. Anything less than 10 or 15 gallons a minute would not be worth it.

Mr Oldmixon indicated that he had heard that a fingered well, would likely not be permitted by NH DES today. Nick responded that there had been discussion with NH DES and these wells are uncommon. Current wells are not traditional, they are shallow and do not give a great deal of protection from contamination. They are supplied by surface water at the source. Mr. Oldmixon indicated that was evident when the river was flowing and running high that the water level in well 2 rebounded to previous levels. (it went from one foot to over three and a half feet in one day.) It shows how dependent we are on the surface water levels.

The site is difficult to access with a 20 foot drop. Tree cutting was not positively received by Snowood residents. There may be a possibility to get an easement off property on Welch View Drive. This property owner has not been contacted to see if this is possible.

Item 2: Meter Recommendation Discussion

LRW was to give John Scruton a list of larger meters needed to be included in this recommendation.

Stan Bujalski indicated that the RFP was for 50 meters with a guaranteed price until June of this year.

Mr. Oldmixon indicated there is an 8% price increase after that time. The battery life is 10 years. Additional discussion was related to storage of the meters once purchased. It was recommended that a secured storage container be rented or purchased to be located at the storage yard.

Mr Bujalski recommended some heat source be added to keep moisture in check that could damage the units.

Motion by Oldmixon, seconded by Bujalski to recommendation that we order 50, 5/8 by 3/4 inch meters and the 1 and 1/2 inch meter for the community center plus 50 of the 3/4 inch residential K Horn Assemblies. Furthermore, we recommend the rental or purchase of a container with heat to be placed at the storage yard for the storage of the meters/ equipment.

Motion carried: Yeas: Oldmixon, Bujalski, Herlihy, Bennett. Nays : None.

Item 3: Grant Application Update

Mr Herlihy talked with Mr. Skarinka in regards to the grant application we have in the preliminary application process. He was assured that this will be a long process. In order to secure a grant we are required to have an Asset Management Plan. We are required to develop a Strategic Plan, which identifies and prioritizes capital project needs over a scheduled time period. The strategic plan should be tied to budgeting needs in order to make the projects affordable to the community. It also must be communicated to the community. WEVD needs to bite off one piece of the apple at a time. The community at an Annual meeting must vote to approve the grant project, dollars, budget, for the grant final application.

The WEVD needs to send a letter to the State NH DES indicating the position of WEVD on this grant at this time.

March 2, 2022

Ms. Kim Kelliher
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
NH Department of Environmental Services
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Dear Ms Kelliher:

Waterville Estates Village District will not be proceeding with the grant application in 2022 for an ARPA grant. Your November 10, 2021 letter indicated the District was eligible for $204,000 for water system improvements.

The project is not part of the warrant for 2022 Annual Meeting and will not be moving forward in 2022. Therefore the District declines the grant. We will not be submitting a final application in 2022.

We will be on the lookout for the 2022 SRF Pre-Application solicitation letter as the District is currently planning to submit for 2023 after completing the Asset Management Study and a Strategic Planning process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Maureen Patti
Chair, Board of Commissioners

Mr Bujalski brought up the high priority needs for a new well. He strongly feels the periodic lack of water is an emergency priority and reassessed the idea of installing a deep well at the Liberty Lane area to provide an additional water source. He was told by NHDES that until this committee was formed, NO ONE had applied or requested information on the grant dollars available to the WEVD. We can't wait for two years to fulfill this need. Mr. Oldmixon asked Mr Sceggell to address Mr Bujalski's concern by installing another deep gravel well at the Liberty location. Mr Sceggell indicated it does not address the diversity issue. He indicated he would talk with hydrologists to better understand rate issue with drilling a well at the site. Mr Sceggell indicated that this may be an immediate short term solution. It would also be less expensive.

Mr. Scruton stated that water line work is needed. Leaks in the system are bleeding off a massive amount of water. The whole picture has to looked at together. There is money in the budget for line repair.

Mr Oldmixon thinks it is worth exploring a back up well at the location of Liberty Lane. Developing a back up at this site is way less expensive and timely. He is talking about a 60/ 80 foot well. A study would have to be done.

A test drill may be the next step. Mr Bujalski mentioned possible installation of observation wells to better understand the drawdown curve on the aquifer.

Discussion moved to the schematic of the meter installation. It was brought up that various homes have various water line installation issues. It is important to recognize an expansion tank may be needed with the K Horn to bring the plumbing up to code. In addition, it has been noted that an electrical grounding issue may also not be up to code. Mr. Oldmixon will add NOTES on the schematic plan schematic bringing attention to these issues. He will submit the notes to the Commissioners for approval as an addendum to the Ordinance.

Members Comments: Mr Bujalski mentioned the DES webinar presentation on the Environmental Review Application that states an application is required of grant work prior to the start of construction. Mr Sceggell indicated that it is a Federal Requirement. Typically since we are working in areas that have already been disturbed we may qualify for a categorial exclusion. Some review with Fish and Game will be required. New areas would be subject to a new review. He believes that NHDES has environmentalists which would do the review for WEVD.

Demographic review will also need to be done to determine economic rating of the community. It impacts the amount of grant dollars that may be awarded.

Mr. Oldmixon asked Mr Scruton about homes being permitted on Myrtle Lane. Mr Scruton indicated that there is a valve at the corner of their property. Mr Scruton indicated they are not confident of how that valve is working and where the water is coming from. No water pressure test has been performed at this time. If there is not adequate pressure the owners are responsible for the expansion of the system to meet the needs, per the ordinance.

Continued discussion talked about learning more about where this water is coming from, by closing a gate valve to determine source of the water for the connection valve, when doing a pressure test.

There are a lot of mysteries in the system. There is a water main in the area but questions relate to if it has been charged.

Citizen Comments: None.

(Ms Bennett left meeting at 9:15 am)

Meeting Date for the next meeting: March 29, 2022 at 8:30 AM

Adjournment:

Motion by Oldmixon, second by Bujalski to adjourn at 9:18 am

Motion Carried by all members present.

Approved: MARCH 29, 2022

Jaime Oldmixon, Chairperson: _____

Terry Bennett, Co- Chair/ Secretary: _____