

NEW LONDON-SPRINGFIELD WATER SYSTEM PRECINCT
Commissioner's Meeting
November 6, 2024
Sydney Crook Room

Attendees: Chairman Kenneth Jacques, Commissioner Richard Cross, Commissioner John MacKenna, Superintendent Rob Thorp. Many in attendance. Sign- in sheet attached to these minutes.

Chairman Jacques opened the meeting at 4:00 PM.

Jacques explained that the meeting was held in the Sydney Crook room instead of the precinct due to anticipated interest in the agenda items.

Some changes were requested and made to the minutes. Rip made a motion to approve minutes with minor changes, John seconded the motion. All in favor.

Rob explained that there were some complaints about water taste and color due to changes in water flow were addressed. A blow-off was implemented to improve water quality. The blow-off seems to be helping with water quality.

SUR West was completing work on cross trenches and gate boxes. Some issues were identified that may need addressing in spring. The Main Street project is almost done.

Service Line Survey is underway with efforts to identify lead service lines continue, with a significant reduction in unknowns. The project is ongoing with a 10-year timeline.

There was some discussion on water rate adjustments and asset valuation. A motion to increase the rate per thousand gallons, from \$2.20 per thousand to \$5.50 per thousand, was made by Rip and seconded by John. The rate increase will be effective January 1, 2025.

Discussion on the use of deduct meters for sewer billing and potential impacts on water usage.

Discussion on high water usage and leaks, including personal anecdotes about water bills and the use of deduct meters for irrigation.

The Board reviewed the letter written to the New London Selectmen from the Precinct outlining concerns and requesting collaboration for future water demand. (letter attached) MacKenna made a motion to accept the letter as written, Rip seconded the motion. All in favor. The letter will be read at the next New London Selectmen meeting. All three Commissioners will attend the meeting to answer any questions.

Discussion about addressing infrastructure issues at Colby Point, including a proposal from Dan Tinkham and Barry Miller to evaluate potential water sources.

Dan presented a proposal focusing on gathering historical data, conducting hydraulic testing, and exploring new well locations. The aim is to improve water productivity by analyzing well logs, conducting geophysical surveys, and potentially drilling new wells.

The plan includes isolating and testing each of the six wells individually to determine their specific capacities and identify the most productive ones. This involves monitoring drawdowns and comparing new data with historical records.

Exploration involves geophysical surveys to identify potential new drilling sites. The focus is on finding deeper or more favorable aquifer materials to increase water productivity.

Options for enhancing well productivity include replacing existing wells, using horizontal drilling, or constructing large caisson wells. These methods aim to increase water capture and efficiency.

The discussion covered the regulatory limits on water extraction and the environmental impact of potential new drilling methods. The importance of staying within permitted production volumes was emphasized.

The sustainability of the aquifer was discussed, noting that the aquifer itself is not at risk of depletion due to ample recharge from the lake. The focus is on maintaining infrastructure efficiency.

The project proposal is estimated at \$77,000, which is considered reasonable. A previous warrant article raised \$20,000, which can be used to start the project. Additional funding may come from the general fund balance.

The project aims to evaluate Colby Point to determine its viability as a water source. There is ambiguity about its potential, and new technology may help identify opportunities.

Geophysical surveys will be conducted to explore bedrocks and aquifers. Test well drilling will follow, but scheduling is dependent on weather and driller availability.

Discussions included the need for additional infrastructure, such as secondary water main and storage facilities, to improve the water system.

The project must consider landowner agreements and easement boundaries, especially if development extends beyond current easements.

Discussion on the usage of Colby Point, owned by Cleveland Corporation, for recreational purposes and the nature of the easement held by the Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The easement is primarily for maintenance, not redevelopment.

Rip made a motion to accept the proposal and start work as soon as possible, John seconded the motion. All in favor.

Bill Helm requested an update from the Board regarding Twin Pines and Continuum. Chairman Jacques responded, explaining that, due to ongoing litigation, discussions on these topics would not be held in accordance with legal counsel's recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda L Gauthier