

Minutes

Contoocook Village Precinct Monthly Meeting

January 12, 2010

There was a meeting of the Contoocook Village Precinct Commissioners on Tuesday January 12, 2010. The meeting was held at the Precinct's utility building on Kearsarge Ave. and was called to order at 7 PM. Bob Carpenter, Bill Chapin, Mark Hemmerlein, Dick Strickford, Colleen Symonds, and Steve Clough were present.

Don Regan and Lisa Parker from the River Grant Condo Association attended the meeting to explain their written request for some type of rate relief for the fall 2009 billing period. The Association, although notified of the rate increase, didn't recognize that the above 450,000 gallons of usage bracket was not included in the rate structure. Don and Lisa declared the association's intention to monitor and control irrigation usage in the future but requested that the rate for their usage above 450,000 gallons that was charged on the fall billing period be reduced.

Mark explained that the rate increase was revenue neutral and that there was a corresponding Precinct tax decrease to offset the rate increase. Bob added that there were several notices to River Grant, going back to 2008 when their irrigation system was installed, about the impending rate increase. Bill mentioned the poor communication with the Association during water shortage periods. The commissioners have had a hard time finding a responsible person in charge. Don and Lisa weren't aware of this issue but apologized and promised to remedy it.

Mark made a motion that the fall billing for River Grant be reduced by charging \$.002/Gal. instead of \$.004/Gal. for the amount of water usage above 450,000 gallons and Bob seconded the motion. This would reduce their bill by approximately \$900 to \$2,700. After discussion on the motion Bill made a motion to amend the motion to state that the fall billing be reduced to \$2,500 and Mark seconded the motion.

After further discussion the amendment to the motion to reduce River Grant's fall bill to \$2,500 was voted on. The motion failed by a 2-1 vote (Mark no, Bill yes, Bob no). The original motion to reduce River Grant's fall billing by approximately \$900 as proposed was voted on. This motion also failed by a 2-1 vote (Mark no, Bill yes, Bob no). The commissioners thanked Don and Lisa for coming to the meeting and Don and Lisa thanked the commissioners for their consideration.

Steve went over several issues. The emergency plan changes directed by NHDES were explained to the commissioners and they signed the plan. Steve will deliver the response and the plan changes to NHDES. The 4th quarter DBP testing and reporting were in compliance. The Standard Monitoring Plan, E. Coli changes, violations, and

upcoming distribution system requirements were briefly discussed. The regulatory environment will only get more stringent and Steve will keep the Commissioners updated as to requirements as they become apparent.

Service shutoffs, fire hydrant status, and distribution system maintenance were mentioned. Steve has received the plans from the fair and will have the backflow and metering requirements analyzed and upgrade costs estimated, hopefully, before the next monthly meeting. The filtration plant repair and maintenance will be addressed as soon as time permits.

Dick left at 8 PM. Bob went over several issues. He will notify Sue about the status of the Hopkinton Fair Association and the River Grant Association bills before the upcoming liens go out for past due municipal bills. A decision on what to do about the fair supply and billing situation will be made after more information on the potential upgrade is available.

Bob provided copies of the proposed 2010 budget, related information, and the DRA MS-37 form. There was an operating loss for 2009 primarily due to higher accounts receivable outstanding because of the higher rates. The 2009 budget, however, was under spent by about \$15,000. After discussion it was decided that there wasn't a serious issue at this point but that the Precinct revenue stream would be monitored closely going forward.

Bob went over his suggested adjustments to the proposed 2010 budget in order to keep it level funded as compared with 2009. The commissioners agreed with these minor changes. The warrant articles weren't ready for review but were discussed. \$100,000 will be put into Capital Reserve as usual and \$50,000 will be taken out of Capital Reserve for the study and design of the filtration system upgrade.

Mark went over the letter from the Town of Warner requiring an updated forestry plan for the Precinct's property. The current plan was noted. The commissioners agreed that Mark would talk to Ron and have him update and sign the plan if the cost was reasonable.

Bob provided the streetlight outline, plans, and purchase agreement information from PSNH. Either the metal halides or high pressure sodium are cost effective and have reasonable payback periods. PSNH will finance the upgrade. The commissioners decided to make some observations, review the details, and discuss the issue further at a future meeting.

The commissioners signed bills for Colleen. Bob will finish the MS-37 form and proposed 2010 warrant articles.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:55 PM.

