

Hopkinton Wastewater Department  
Operation & Maintenance Committee  
Contoocook Village WWTP

September 22, 2009

There was a meeting of the Hopkinton Wastewater Department Operation and Maintenance Committee on Tuesday September 22, 2009. The meeting was held at the Contoocook Village Wastewater Treatment Plant and began at 7 P.M. Dick Strickford, Dick Drescher, Stu Nelson, Lloyd Holmes, George Langwasser, and Steve Clough were present.

Dick Strickford nominated Lloyd Holmes to be Chairman of the Operation and Maintenance Committee for the upcoming year, Stu seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (5-0). Steve reviewed the current practice of posting Agendas and Minutes at two public places. The committee concurred with this policy as long as the Board of Selectmen are provided a copy for their agenda. It will be left up to the administration whether or not to post the Minutes on the town website.

The proposed 2010 budget was reviewed and Steve answered questions. The proposed budget is down about 1.5% over 2009. Maintenance, materials, fuel oil, and chemical costs are down and several other lines are holding steady. The Committee discussed ways of controlling budgets going forward. Stu made a motion to recommend accepting the 2010 proposed budget to the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen, Dick Drescher seconded the motion, George abstained, and the vote was 4-0.

Steve went over previous rate increases, current revenues, and the Sewer Fund balance. Revenues are starting to dip below expenditures and the fund balance is estimated to be down to between \$10,000 and \$15,000 by December 31, 2009. Revenues are down because of the water ban during the summer of 2008 and may stay down due to the Contoocook Village Precinct's recent rate increases (wastewater usage is based on water usage). If water users conserve it will tend to also depress sewer revenues.

The committee decided that a reasonable rate increase in 2010 would be prudent (the last increase was in April of 2006). This will allow usage figures from 2009 and 2010 to become available, after water usage presumably stabilizes, before making any further revenue requirement determinations. Dick Strickford made a motion to recommend to the Hopkinton Board of Selectmen that sewer rates be raised by \$5.00 per 6 month period on the minimum charge to \$105, and that the price per gallon above the minimum be raised by .0003/gal. to .0056/gal., with the increase to become effective beginning with the April 2010 billing period. Stu seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0). This was estimated to be about a 5% increase.

The Committee briefly discussed several wastewater and water policy and planning issues. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 P.M.

