

LINCOLN AD HOC WATER COMMITTEE

APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 31, 2019 – 3:30PM

LINCOLN TOWN HALL - 148 MAIN STREET, LINCOLN, NH

Select Board Present: OJ Robinson and Tamra Ham.

Staff Present: Town Manager Burbank, Fire Chief Ron Beard, Public Works Director Nate Hadaway, and Water Plant Operator David Beaudin.

Ad Hoc Members Present: Mark Ehrman, John Hettinger, Dennis Ducharme, Joe Conn, and Rick Kelley.

Also Present: Chris Curran, Renee Blood and Budget Committee members Jack Daly, Paul Beaudin, and Cindy Lloyd.

I. CALL TO ORDER

OJ Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

MOTION: “To approve the minutes of January 17, 2019 as amended.”

Motion: Mark Ehrman **Second:** John Hettinger **Motion carries**

II. AD HOC WATER COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION

OJ Robinson began by reiterating that the goal of this committee is to officially put together recommendations for the Select Board. Cindy Lloyd stated that the Town of Woodstock charges for water *and* sewer and that this committee needs to discuss charging for sewer also as the two issues are associated. The committee agreed.

OJ added that the Select Board has decided to place water meters on the town warrant. He questioned what the committee’s recommendations are for installing and funding water meters. Paul Beaudin stated that a fee structure needs to be determined prior to deciding on the installation of water meters. The committee agreed that the voters will want and need to know what we putting out for water and what is being collecting in waste. It is also important that the townspeople are made aware that metering will cut back on water use. Conservation is the best viable solution for the future of the community.

It was also brought up that at a prior meeting, Mr. Clang (Granite State Rural Water) had advised the committee to keep in mind and to make the townspeople aware that the water use and associated rates would be something that would be examined and possibly readjusted on an annual basis. There was an extended discussion about setting a fee structure. The committee discussed setting a flat rate for a set amount of use and after that threshold has been met, charging on a per gallon rate. The committee discussed the pros and cons of rate setting and various rate structures. The committee agreed that there is no need to reinvent the wheel and a rate structure from a municipality as close as Woodstock or another similar community could be utilized. Some agreed that starting with a flat rate (simply to support the Town’s infrastructure) would be the most accepted structure to use to begin charging for water. The committee also discussed how to charge businesses for their use.

Town Manager Burbank stated that the town will not be able to get large amount of assistance in the form of loans or grants for water/sewer infrastructure from NHDES or EPA unless the town meters water. Nate Hadaway added that they will also not approve or permit any additional water source or groundwater discharge permits if the town is not metering. Discussion ensued. A comment was made

that water meters only cost \$25 per meter per year for 20 years, the cost is really quite minimal compared to the benefits.

Renee Blood questioned whether the town has done due diligence and whether the committee has done all of the homework necessary to sell this project to the townspeople. OJ replied that no, the committee is not quite prepared to do that which is why they've been meeting. All agreed that the committee needs to be prepared to present this to the townspeople and to be vocal about the benefits of metering at town meeting. All agreed that a thorough and understandable presentation of the entire infrastructure situation should be presented to the townspeople at town meeting. Discussion ensued and it was decided that the committee will do some additional research and bring the following information to the next meeting:

- To come up with bullet/talking points for town meeting specifically related to the return on investment for purchasing water meters; determine what cost avoidance the town will have in the future which will offset the costs of metering and;
- Look at various rate structures, specifically the Town of Woodstock to see what they're charging and how their structure is set up and to come up with a billing system for the Town of Lincoln.

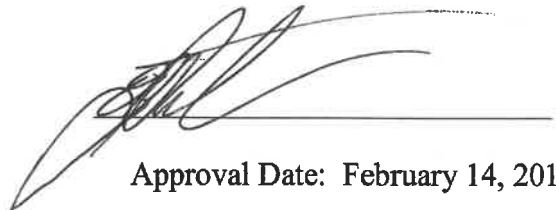
III. UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting will be held on February 14th at 3:30pm.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brook Rose



Approval Date: February 14, 2019