

**Water and Sewer Commission**  
**July 12, 2010**

Members Present: Dick Cote, Tom Nash, Jim Ruitto,  
Also Present: Rick Kelsey, Director of Public Works, Carl Chudzik, Board of  
Selectmen

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dick Cote called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jim Ruitto and seconded by Tom Nash to approve the May 3, 2010 minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion passed.

**3. ACCEPT AGENDA**

Dick Cote requested tonight's agenda be amended to include "the future of water & sewer" under New Business. Jim Ruitto made a motion to approve tonight's agenda as amended. Motion seconded by Tom Nash. All ayes. Motion passed.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATION**

- A status report memo dated 6/10/10 to Water & Sewer Commission members from Rick Kelsey.

**6. REPORT FROM DIRECTOR**

**Water**

***Water Storage Tank Improvements***

Rick Kelsey reported the tank project is currently out to bid and the bid opening is scheduled for 7/21. Rick reported that this project is specialized construction and feels there will only be 2 or 3 qualified bidders.

***High Street Watermain***

Rick Kelsey reported that the High Street Watermain project is approximately 40% complete. The contractor (Nutmeg Gravel) is performing work faster than anticipated and with less disturbance to sidewalks, etc. which will result in a reduction of construction costs of at least \$45,000. Rick also anticipates a reduction in costs for police traffic protection and construction inspection of approximately \$40,000. Those reductions, combined with the \$50,000 of contingency funds will provide approximately \$130,000 that can be used to install approximately 1,000 feet of additional watermain and put us within 720 feet of the water storage tanks where the connection was originally intended.

A resolution was approved by the Board of Selectmen to extend the project by approximately 1,000 feet.

In addition, a resolution has been presented to the Board of Selectmen to approve an additional appropriation from the water operating fund in the amount of \$125,000 to continue the water main to the High Street tanks. A Town Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> to hopefully authorize this additional 720 feet of work.

### ***Level A Mapping***

Well pumping tests began on 6/4/10 and the engineer is preparing computer models for limits of the aquifer.

### ***Culvert Replacements***

Rick Kelsey reported that the State has awarded the contract for the Route 17A culvert replacement project to Empire. The State will pay for the culvert replacement and the project should begin in early August.

### ***Telecommunications***

Rick Kelsey informed the Commission that MDC has installed 2 of the 5 radio links to help alleviate current telemetry problems.

### **Sewer**

#### ***Sewer TV & Cleaning***

Rick Kelsey reported that the final phase of Sewer TV & Cleaning is very near completion. He told the Commission that he is currently working on a major blockage found during TV/cleaning near the Coe Avenue Pump Station. A 24" diameter sewer pipe, 8 feet deep is partially blocked. The Sewer Department will excavate and take a closer look tomorrow (Wednesday, 7/13) with a camera. By-pass pumps and plugs may be needed. Rick will report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

- Water & Sewer Delinquencies – Rick Kelsey reported that last month's delinquency collections went well and only 3 shutoffs were required. Only one residence remains shut off.
- Rick Kelsey explained to the Commission that bonds in the amount of approximately \$800,000; issued for water projects in the late 80's have been transferred to the water operating fund. Portions of these monies will be utilized to offset the current deficit and to extend the water main to the High Street tanks.
- Rick Kelsey discussed capital improvements approved in the 2010-2011 budget for the Water and Sewer Divisions.
  - Sludge hauling tank replacement - \$30,000
  - Plant and system improvements; i.e., new roof on control building & sludge containment building - \$15,000
  - Purchase new billing software – water and sewer - \$13,000
  - Replace meter reading equipment = \$11,500
  - Replace gas chlorinator @ reservoir - \$8,500
  - Remote read meters – 11,000

- Dick Cote discussed the future of water & sewer and introduced two books to the Commission; Water for Hartford by Kevin Murphy and Water by Steven Solomon. Both books chronicle the historic efforts to construct viable, efficient water systems. Dick Cote and Carl Chudzik indicated that they had met with officials of the MDC and reported that the MDC is currently in a surplus situation and would like Portland to become a member of the MDC. They are currently developing wells in Glastonbury and both Dick Cote and Carl Chudzik feel this is a great window of opportunity for Portland. They indicated that MDC will provide free of charge, an in depth study of the costs associated with same. Rick Kelsey explained to the Commission that MDC had met with Susan and he 4 or 5 years ago and discussed MDC's acquisition of the Portland water system. Their engineering consultant performed a brief evaluation of our system and the MDC indicated they were not interested in acquiring Portland's water system. Rick also stated that legislative action would be needed for Portland to become a "member town" and it would likely be a lengthy and difficult process.

Tom Nash made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town become a member of the MDC. Jim Ruitto seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Tom Nash and seconded by Jim Ruitto. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting – August 2, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Laura S. Manager  
Recording Secretary

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