

NEW LONDON-SPRINGFIELD WATER SYSTEM PRECINCT
Commissioners Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2023

PRESENT: Kenneth Jacques (Chairman), John MacKenna (Commissioner), Rip Cross (Commissioner), Rob Thorp (Superintendent) and Rhonda Gauthier (Office Manager).

Others in Attendance: Bill Helm (New London Selectmen), Karen and Rich Epstein, Judy Cooper, Guy Garofalo, Paul Vance, all New London residents, and Peter Nichols from the NH Housing Commission.

The meeting opened at 4:00. Rob informed the Board that Peter Pitsis from Underwood Engineers had to cancel his 4:30 appointment with the Board due to a family emergency. He will be put on the agenda for the October meeting.

The Board thanked New London Selectman Bill Helm for doing a great job representing the Water Precinct at their August 18, 2023, summer gathering meeting.

Rip made a motion to sign off on all bills presented to the Board for payment, John seconded the motion. Accounts payables approved.

Rip made a motion to accept the minutes from August 7, 2023, John seconded the motion. Minutes accepted as written.

The Board reviewed the Income and Expenditure 1/1/2023 to 9/05/2023. No discussion.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Superintendent's report (attached). Rob informed the Board that the Colby Point Pump Station is finally running correctly and at full capacity. It was also noted that both energy audits are almost complete; after reviewing a few more records the Precinct should see their recommendations.

The Board reviewed an email from Abigail from Edgewater Strategies. The email was a proposal for the Precinct to supply water to some of the units at The New London Place Project rather than the whole project. After discussing the email from Abigail and the letter from the state that the Precinct cannot offer domestic water to larger projects with the resources in place, the board voted. Rip made a motion to only offer fire protection and not domestic water to the New London Place Project, John seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to only offer fire protection to the New London Place Project and not domestic water service.

There was some discussion on the Main Street project. Rip asked Rob to find out what percentage of the drawings are done. Ken asked if Rob could get Mike Metcalf in for the November meeting to decide what to do with the groundwater resource report.

Rich Epstein asked how much the Main St project will cost. Chairman Jacques said anywhere from 2 to 5 million dollars. Jacques explained that it is hard to give a precise cost until we are closer to the project.

Karen Epstein asked how long the project will take and what hours they will be working. Jacques said there will be no night crews, mostly due to higher costs. They will work normal hours and in the most efficient way.

Guy Cooper asked how the Precinct is paying for the Main Street Project. Chairman Jacques said that the money will come from taxes and a loan/bond. The customers in the Precinct pay a small amount of taxes that are included on their property tax bill that goes to the Precinct. Jacques also explained that when the Precinct gets a loan like they have in the past, the Precinct pays down as much of the principal as possible each year.

There was some discussion on local banks versus bond banks. Bill Heim informed the Board that the local banks are not competitive right now and the Bond Banks only bond a few times per year.

Judy Cooper asked the Board how the Precinct measures growth. Chairman Jacques said in the past the Board would measure growth by the available land not tied up and the zoning. The Precinct has never had these types and sizes of developments brought to the Board. The Precinct usually sees about two new applications for new service per year. Zoning laws have changed the density in some areas in town so measuring growth is more challenging.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Next commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday October 2, 2023, at 4:00.

Respectfully Submitted, Rhonda L Gauthier