

New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Annual Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025

Moderator Bowers opened the meeting at 6:30pm. Chairman Kenneth Jacques made the announcement that 40-year employee Rod Reyelt retired from the Precinct in February, and Office Manager Rhonda Gauthier will be retiring, but will be staying on consulting when needed. Chairman Jacques Thanked both for their service to the Precinct.

Moderator Bowers announced he would be following Roberts Rules of order Plus Fairness, Moderator Bowers asked anyone making a motion or seconding a motion to announce their name. He then requested a motion to waive the reading of the articles and to refer to them by number. Peter Stanley moved the motion. Second by Joe Cardello. Motion passed. Bowers advised they have waived the reading of the articles and will take them up by number.

Article 1-Election of Officers

To Elect the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct Officers: one Commissioner to serve a three-year term; one Treasurer to serve a one-year term; one Clerk to serve a one-year term; and one Moderator to serve a one-year term. **82 people voted. Results of the vote, Commissioner Ken Jacques won with 79 votes. Treasurer Joe Kubit won with 76 votes. Clerk Tracy MacKenna won with 78 votes. Moderator Robert Bowers won with 76 votes.**

Article 2 - Operating Budget for the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct

To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million, Two Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$1,257,485) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion by Peter Stanley, seconded by John Ellis, to take up Article 2. Bowers requested Chairman Kenneth Jacques to speak to Article 2 first. Chairman Jacques explained the increases in salaries, benefits and taxes were going up for a few reasons, first would be the change in the office position going from part-time to full-time and the 2 other employees were being brought up to competitive rates and increased cost of health insurance. There were also increases in The Financial Auditing, Pump and Tank Maintenance, Utilities, Supplies, Property Liability, and Legal Fees. The 20-year Main St Bond is an interest payment of \$223,473, and Principal payment of \$218,650.

Monique Jeffrey asked what the rate was, it was explained it is around 4%.

Greg Sargent asked what the rate that this results in, (meaning the impact on the tax rate) it was explained that Rhonda had estimated approximately \$1.90.

John Fink asked for an explanation of what went into the legal expenses. It was explained this was to cover the precinct representation with respect to the Twin Pines Project, and any other legal needs.

Cara Leoni, how much of the proposed budget is funded from water usage fees versus funded from taxes? It was explained capital expenditures and major costs that everybody benefits are covered through taxation, and then the users pay for most of the operating costs. It was explained that there will be an increase in fees for services with the semi-annual charge going from \$55 to \$65 and the overage fee will be \$5.50 per 1000.

Julie Elliman advised there were multiple breaks on MainStreet. "Do you see actual savings?"

Kathleen Sulmans asked about the estimated lifespan of the system that was just replaced. It was explained it is estimated to be approximately 75 years.

Kathleen Sulmans also asked about the pipes running from the Mains to someone's house, is there any way

to know when those need to be changed, and is that on the subscriber? So, the lateral lines that run from the main street. It was explained that many have been replaced and many upgrades, and the precinct will continue to upgrade with prioritization in mind.

John Fink asked if the lease expense, is that the money that we pay to Cotton Cleveland it was explained it is paid to the Cleveland corporate.

John Fink asked if that price was a fixed price. It was explained it is fixed due to the last negotiation. It was a 10-year contract that is up in 2030.

Moderator Bowers seeing no further questions called the vote. Article 2 Passed.

Article 3-Funding for Water System Improvements and Lead & Copper Rule Compliance

To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of funding improvements to the Water System, including but not limited to necessary upgrades, repairs, and replacements of pipes, equipment, and infrastructure, as well as compliance with the New Hampshire Lead and Copper Rule, which may require specific actions to address lead service lines or other related work. This sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) will be taken from the unassigned fund balance and not raised by taxes. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the improvements are completed or by 12/31/2028, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required).

Motion made by Peter Stanley to adopt Article 3, Seconded by Peter Holman. Superintendent Rob Thorp explained we Budgeted \$10,000 because the EPA handed down new lead and copper mandates as part of the revised lead and copper rule, that all lead service lines need to be identified positively. The \$15,000 is for continued system maintenance.

Cara Leoni asked what the Unassigned fund balance was.

Peter Hoglund asked where the pipes were. Rob Thorp advised the pipes were scattered.

Moderator Bowers called the vote. Article 3 Passed.

Article 4-Funding for the exploration of water resources on Colby Point

To see if the New London-Springfield Water System Precinct will vote to appropriate the sum of Fifty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Dollars (\$56,900) for the purpose of funding the exploration and assessment of water resources on Colby Point, including but not limited to feasibility studies, testing, and necessary evaluations to determine the availability and suitability of water sources for future use. The sum of Fifteen Thousand (15,000) will come from the NH DES Strategic Planning Grant (grant award is a 50% match grant not to exceed \$30,000) with the remaining Forty-one Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$41,900) to be taken from the unassigned fund and not raised by taxes. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or by 12/31/2028, whichever is sooner. The Commissioners recommend this appropriation. (Majority vote required)

Motion made by Peter Stanley to adopt Article 4, motion seconded by Rich Epstein, Moderator Bowers asked Commissioner Cross to explain the Article. Commission Cross advised this money will be used to have experts investigate and evaluate the 6 production wells we have to make sure we are getting the most out of what we have and recommend any improvements that can be made.

Kathleen Shulman asked if there was a plan to explore other options. Commissioner Cross advised we have all our infrastructure, out on Colby Point. So, we're trying to figure out what, if anything, we can do to maximize or to improve their net.

Don Durgin asked if the exploration and the evaluation, at Colby Point, fails or come up to only give you 150,000 gallons more, what plan do you have in place, plan B, or are you looking at other avenues for bringing more water into the precinct? It was advised the Precinct did ask Emery and Garrett originally, to do a, and I'll call it a broad paintbrush look of the area as to where you might be able to find water.

John Fink motioned an amendment to article four that the consultants, Emery and Garrett, should be directed to analyze strategies for water conservation in the water precinct, especially with reference to the top users in the area.

Eve Burden seconded the motion. It was advised that this motion was not funded, and there is no way to do it unless other projects were abandoned, which is to look for more water.

Commissioner Cross also advised the precinct has no means to police this.

Kathleen Schulman stated, "it's not clear to me that the same group of engineers, that are very good at finding water, is also the right group to talk about conservation measures."

Julia Ellimens stated that the language in the warrant article says including but not limited to feasibility studies testing and necessary evaluation.

Joe Kubit asked if this amendment scrapped everything else that's originally proposed in the original Article 4 or is this an addition to the Original Article. It was advised He is asking that the article as written be amended to contain the language he said, which is in essence that this engineering firm be asked to do some review and recommendations regarding water conservation.

Moderator Bowers called for a vote on the *amendment* to Article 4, The amendment Failed.

Continued discussion on Article 4 as written, James Foley asked if the goal of the study is to identify a water source, to restore or maintain the current water capacity or is it to expand the water capacity so that we can facilitate large application?

It was explained that it is not directed at being able to accommodate large projects in the future because we don't know the result of this study yet. The idea is to see whether the technology of today is better suited to try to provide more water with the current well field that we have, with the current infrastructure that we already have in place.


It was mentioned that our license is for 750,000, We cannot go above the 750 unless we go back to the state and ask for approval for that.

Moderator Bowers called for the vote on Article 4, Article 4 passed,

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Moderator Bowers advised This is a non-debatable motion, therefore I will ask for a show of all in favor of adjourning.

Motion passed.



Respectfully submitted
Tracey Mackenna