

WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF September 30, 2008

Town Hall Annex
5 Highland Street
Main Conference Room

Meeting Opened: 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Edgar, Bob Hill, Jonathan James, Chuck Lowth, Chuck Palm (Selectmen Alternate), Richard Roman, David Thorpe.

Members Absent: Carol Granfield, Miller Lovett

Others Present: James Emery, President, Emery and Garrett Groundwater, Inc.

Approval of Minutes: This was deferred to the next meeting

Ground Water Source: Jamie Emery discussed the 7 step process of locating a ground water source and bringing it on line. Of most importance to the committee is knowing at what stage land can be identified and protected and what are the relative costs of a new surface water source compared to a ground water source.

It appears the earliest a good location could be identified is the end of stage 2 with unusually good investigation results at a cost of about \$100,000. Completing stage 3 increases the confidence level significantly at an additional cost of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000. A completed, permitted well will cost \$400,000 to \$500,000 (all 7 stages). Additional costs would be treatment, connection to the service area and storage if required.

A very rough estimate is that a ground water source can be brought on line for about ½ the cost of a new surface water source. Operating costs for a well can be about 1/15th the cost of operating a surface source if extensive treatment is not required.

CIP Advisory Committee Meeting: Dave presented the Water System Committee plans to the CIP September 17. They were well received except for the Bayshore Drive main replacement project which was viewed negatively because of high cost for limited benefit.

Water Treatment Plant Capacity: Brien reviewed recent activities related to plant capacity and maintenance. The raw water venturi was choked with alum and was cleaned increasing the plant capacity from 480 gpm to 560 gpm

(691,200 gpd to 806,400 gpd raw water input). The raw water pumps have been tested by the manufacturer's representative and found to have problems. The system will be tested further (run a system curve) in the next week or so to more accurately determine the condition of the pumps. If the pumps need replacement this item will go to the top of the capital spending list. Consideration will be given to the possibility of increasing the raw water capacity to increase the overall capacity of the plant.

Run times of the filter beds have been increased to improve water quality and operating efficiency by using more of the storage tank capacity. A diver has inspected the water intake and suction line, all is in good condition.

Future Demand: John Edgar, Jonathan James and Dave Thorpe discussed the future demand studies which are about 80% complete. John described the process he is using to analyze 5 areas of town looking at 101 properties. Dave presented data to determine applicable usage rates for typical properties, peaking factors and unaccounted-for losses to be used in the demand studies.

Board of Selectmen Presentation: We decided to request a delay from October 6 to present findings to the Board of Selectmen. Both demand and capacity issues are actively being investigated and still changing rapidly. A delay will allow more definitive conclusions to be presented instead of only a status report. A meeting with the Board of Selectmen is not urgent from the Committee's perspective as preliminary demand and capacity numbers show there is sufficient capacity and no urgent issues needing immediate attention. As a guide to when we will be ready to present we reviewed a list of the items that need to be well defined before this presentation and items that can be presented later.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Thorpe