

WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF October 14, 2008

Town Hall Annex
5 Highland Street
Main Conference Room

Meeting Opened: 5:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Edgar, Jonathan James, Chuck Lowth, Miller Lovett (Selectmen Representative), Brian Carroll, David Thorpe.

Members Absent: Chuck Palm, Bob Hill, Richard Roman

Others Present: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of September 2, 16 and 30 meetings were approved.

Brian Carroll gave an update to the Water Treatment Plant operations. Filter bed run times have been extended to 6 hours improving efficiency. Raw water pump capacity is 560 gpm (700 gpm designed rate) or 806,000 gpd limiting the maximum capacity of the plant to 90% of that number which is 725,760 gpd.

Finished water pumps have a capacity of 620 gpm or 892,000 gpd. Although this is below the designed rate of 700 gpd it does not represent a capacity limitation at this time.

The storage tower is being managed to operate at 29 to 27 feet which is a wider range than before allowing longer filter bed run times. The low level test is to be run but the date has not been set. During recent flushing the level dropped to 24.5 feet with no problems.

The meter replacement program contract is close to being signed but until raw water pump funding is secured it will not be released. A new vendor for the leak detection project will have to be found. The preferred vendor is not responsive.

A critical capacity evaluation yet to be determined is the rate at which water can flow through the clear well. A meeting with Rick Skarenka of DES will take place soon to, among other things, determine the clear well capacity.

The distribution system was discussed with notes that Circle Drive and Kelly Lane have been completed and Greemore Road to Prescott Park is under construction. The priority of future distribution system upgrades is tentatively:

1. Bayshore Drive. New estimates are being explored and there is a possibility of waiting for development of Upper Terrace and the Morse property.
2. Highland Street – Caverly Street – no discussion.
3. Main Street plus hydrants. Recent inspections have showed the mains to be in good condition. Project will likely wait for paving upgrades and possible push out to 2011.
4. Water Street and Avery Street Loop – no discussion.
5. Main Street at Rt. 25 intersection – need more information about the “constricted” portion of the mains.
6. Railroad Ave – likely will wait until development of the Wickes property even though this is a very old main with unknown condition.
7. Burnham property – no discussion.

The “Available Spare Capacity” study was reviewed. Although a decision by the committee was to annotate the report regarding the raw water pumps capacity shortfall, later that decision was reversed by Dave Thorpe and Brian Carroll to show the capacity shortfall in the report with a recovery in January 2009.

The “Demand Forecast Summary” study was reviewed which shows additional capacity required by at least 2015 if development is not restrained. The desirable features of a well and additional storage tank were discussed noting the value of redundancy in distribution, source and storage is very high but not easily quantified.

The structure of the presentation to the Board of Selectmen was discussed briefly.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Thorpe