

WATER SYSTEM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF December 23, 2008

Town Hall Annex
5 Highland Street
Main Conference Room

Meeting Opened: 5:00 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Chuck Lowth, Miller Lovett. Richard Roman has resigned from the committee.

Others Present: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 28, 2008 and November 25, 2008 meetings were approved.

Brian Carroll gave an update to the Water Treatment Plant operations:

- After cleaning the raw water piping, pressure washing the pumps and calibrating the venturi, the raw water capacity is 640 gpm vs. 700 gpm rating. The finished water pump capacity is 620 gpm vs. 700 rating. Both of these need to be brought up to capacity. An engineer from Worthington pumps will be brought in to determine the cause and necessary corrective action.
- Electrical usage at the Mile Point pumping station has been reduced to about 60% of recent usage (40+ kwh to 25 kwh) by repairing a stuck check valve. The Ladd Hill station needs to be inspected for potentially similar problems. With the water treatment plant now running only about 6 hours per day electrical usage will be reduced there as well.
- The leak detection contract has been awarded and work is complete. Two small leaks were detected.
- The meter replacement contract has been released and will begin January 6, 2009. Completion is expected by the end of April.
- Recent tests have shown filter bed capacity to be lower than expected. Siemens (the original manufacturer) will be contracted to run tests to determine causes and corrective action.
- The clear well capacity still needs to be determined but the rest of the plant needs to run at capacity before that test can be run.
- Very inexpensive SCADA upgrades to the present system will be accomplished soon.

Available spare capacity was discussed again. The study was rerun using maximum quarterly usage and a peaking factor appropriate to the maximum quarter. Chuck Palm audited the methods and results finding two changes which were made for the latest run. This current study is available to any town official who would like to review it. Until the requested user population information is received in a month or so this will be the most accurate and representative analysis we can do.

Dave Thorpe reviewed the initial data (about 25% of the bills) from the population survey. We received 32.5% response to the survey questions which represents 30.3% of the water consumption so that tells us we are getting a reasonably representative sample of users.

The average usage is about 60 gallons per day per person which is considerably less than the 90 gpd/p earlier recommended. The occupancy rate is 1.33 people per account which is considerably less than the 2.5 people earlier recommended. The end result is 80 gpd per single residence vs. the 225 gpd earlier recommended. All this translates to much greater "Available Spare Capacity" and less future demand than we have been led to believe.

A word of caution is that this data is from Q4 billing, not Q3 so we are not seeing peak demand and only about 25% of the survey has been captured so far.

John Edgar will search for a Word format copy of the updated (April 2007) Water Use Ordinance so Dave Thorpe can begin generating a new version.

A special working meeting of the Water System Committee has been scheduled for January 8, 2009 at 1:00PM in the Town Hall Annex specifically to generate a Distribution System plan. Brian Carroll, Chuck Palm, John Edgar, Jonathan James and Dave Thorpe will attend. All other committee members and interested persons are invited.

The date of the next regular meeting was not discussed but a tentative date is Tuesday, January 20, 2009. Please suggest another date if this does not work.

An updated version of the Task List is attached.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Thorpe