

**TOWN OF BEDFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
WATER AND SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
THURSDAY, April 14, 2016**

***MINUTES***

Committee members present: Paul Arnold (Chairman), Rebecca Hebert, (Planning Director), Bill Duschatko (Town Councilor), Bruce Thomas (Resident), Richard Moore (Resident), and Mike Sills (Resident), Jerome Spooner (Environmental Coordinator). Absent was Kelleigh Murphy (Town Councilor).

Meeting came to order at 7:52 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Each committee member introduced themselves. Rebecca Hebert who is the new Planning Director, replacing Rick Sawyer, who is our new Town Manager, and she will be attending the Water and Sewer Committee Meetings in the future.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Bill Duschatko, second by Mike Sills to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting. Motion carries; with 1 abstention.

**CMOM 2015 Annual Report – (Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance)**

Jerome Spooner briefed the committee. Annual report that is reported to NH DES gives the background information of the sewer system, where the sewer goes, how it runs and any updated information that will be done in the upcoming year. The final CMOM report has been submitted to NH DES.

Mike Trainque and John Jackman, Hoyle, Tanner and Associates were present and John Jackman will speak on this report.

Paul Arnold mentioned the Town of Bedford is a co-permittee with the City of Manchester and we are required to submit the CMOM report to the EPA annually.

Mr. Jackman gave the committee a summary. The goal is to make sure the communities are taking care of their collection systems, properly budgeting for the maintenance of the systems and documenting they have a plan and a financial responsibility to make sure they are able to meet the future requirements.

When submitting this report, a copy is submitted to NH DES, EPA, City of Manchester, and Town of Merrimack. There are two (2) discharge permits – Manchester is under two (2) EPA permits.

One of the biggest items is the annual cleaning. For the past four (4) years, a certain block of the collection system has been cleaning, televising and getting a good inventory of what the system is. The way the collection system has been broken out for priority is based on risk. We started with the large interceptors along the river and have now been building out. (Presentation on the screen) Public site – area the committee is looking at is what was cleaned and televised in 2015. During the process, they were able to identify and locate a lot of the manholes that were difficult and did not have good mapping. Also found several areas of sewer that we were not aware they had sewer, so this information was documented. Jerome is currently working with the people on Hull Road. Found sewer that was in poor condition and difficult to maintain. With this program, awareness has been made, and the Town has moved very quickly in correcting the awareness situations. Looking at next year, (indicated on the screen) some lines are private sewer, but because of the force main coming down and going through the section, needs to be maintained by the Town since we are utilizing that segment of the sewer system.

We also GPS the locations to verify and update the maps each year. For the coming year, Jerome is working hard on developing a much more detail FOG Program, working with the Health Officer and hoping to include some of the people forms that come with the page sight to do work order forms to develop better tracking and data collection. Working closely with AAA Pumps to be able to collect better data when going to the various sites. This year Jerome is looking to add additional items for the routine maintenance at the siphon station to make sure that all is operating properly. John Jackman praised Jerome for his hard work and stated he has done an excellent job and takes his job very seriously and has some excellent ideas.

Mike Sills asked if we are still approving pressure sewers and mentioned Greenfield Farms. At this point, Paul Arnold mentioned that the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee is only an advisory committee, and we have no power and work at the pleasure of the Town Council.

Jim Stanford, Director of Public Works, in speaking of Greenfield Farms Development, mentioned this is a low pressure system, with individual homes having an injector pump. He does not believe we would be recommending approval of this type of system in the future.

Bill Duschatko asked about the “unused” sewer. Mr. Jackman indicated he found sewer areas that we did not have prior to this. People tied on and it was not marked.

Paul Arnold asked Bruce Thomas to submit his comments of the CMOM report to Mr. Jackman and Joanne for part of the record. Paul asked if the CMOM report is on the website? Currently it is not, but can be added.

### **Discussion of Sewer System Upgrades – Proposed Developments**

Jim Stanford spoke on this. Some time ago, a developer was in for an extension for a potential residential development. This has not gone forward at this time. This would be off the Constitution Drive system. The extension was along Route 101, coming from Colonial and Pilgrim Drive. They were trying to work with Bedford Village Inn to remove their pressure system, currently have a pump system. At present, the development has been on hold. However, the engineer for Bedford Village Inn and Bedford Grand has been working with an abutter to the north. Jim pointed locations on the map. They have worked out an agreement with the developer of another parcel to the north to extend a gravity line and remove their pressure system. This would be a benefit to the Town. This is a private pump system that services the Bedford Village Inn, however, it does take a lot of Town resources, such as clogging, fatty oils and grease (FOG system) that is prevalent with hotels and restaurants. They will be coming before the committee soon for a full presentation on their development plans. As mentioned, this will be a benefit to the Town as it will free up some of our resources that we constantly have to tend too. If there is a sewer leak, or a sewer problem, it is our EPA permit they are discharging into, so we do need to respond.

The other development is the former Macy’s location on South River Road. Plans are to redevelop this area to a mixed use site. Currently there are no sewer upgrades as the sewer is adequate for their needs. Looking to upgrade their water line and would need to cut into South River Road. The Town is working with them to accomplish this prior to the Town’s final paving of the TIF project, within the next 6 weeks. Need to upsize 2 water mains and cut into the road, as well as capping of existing Manchester Water Works lines.

We continue to monitor Greenfield Farms with Jerome going to the area frequently. Most sewer systems are development driven and we try to push a system, if it meets it, with a gravity system. Greenfield Farms is a perfect example why we prefer a gravity system.

Mike Sills inquired about the modifying of the water main at the former Macy's location. Jim indicated they need to upsize in order to handle the proposed development. Jim explained the Town Council has set a 5 year moratorium on pavement cuts. With the investment of the \$30 million road bond, cutting a roadway after it has been upgraded, takes away from the lifespan of that road. We are trying to extend the life of the roads.

**Discussion on upcoming Bedford/Merrimack Intermunicipal Sewer Agreement**

Jim Stanford briefly informed the committee it has been 20 years the Town has had this intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Merrimack. Jim had the Greenfield Farms area on the screen, which includes both sides of Wallace Road, Greenfield Parkway and the opposite side of Liberty Hill Road. All pressure lines discharge to a pump station in Merrimack. This is the only system that is outside of the Manchester treatment area. There has been an agreement with the Town of Merrimack for the past 20 years to collect and treat under their treatment system. This is an intermittent municipal agreement. We are co-permittees on the EPA and are responsible, same as with Manchester. Since the current agreement is about to expire, they have submitted some proposals for a new agreement.

Some of the items they are looking to change is the maintenance of the pump station. There has been deterioration in the pipes and the manhole structures, mostly related to the pressure system. Merrimack is looking for the Town of Bedford to pay their fair share for the deterioration we may cause.

One phase of the repairs has been completed, but the second phase is still pending. Jerome explained what the next phase involves. The suction pipes inside the pump station need to be changed to stainless. The diverter box before the pump station has to be pressure washed and scraped and relined with a coating. The line from the new manhole to the diverter box needs to be looked at as well. Jim mentioned they have also spoken about odor control.

Bruce Thomas will submit some of his comments and typo's that he noticed. Paul Arnold asked that everyone review the document and be prepared to discuss at the May meeting.

**Discussion of PFOA Contamination – (Perfluorooctanoic Acid)**

Rick Sawyer, Town Manager, gave a summary to the committee. The Town became aware of the PFOA contamination in mid to late March. Public hearings for Merrimack and Litchfield were held as these areas have been hit hard. The Town of Bedford was able to hold a Public Forum on March 30<sup>th</sup> with over 300 residents and business owner's attending. This is an ongoing and changing situation, including changes as of Wednesday, April 13, 2016.

There was a map showing the areas supplied by Manchester Water Works and Pennichuck Water Works. A large portion of the area is supplied by Manchester Water Works. Pennichuck purchases water and it is extended out to the High School, Riddle Brook School, and subdivisions in the area. That water comes from Lake Massabesic – Manchester. Showing another area on the map, an isolated system, comes from the Merrimack Village Water District, not the Town of Merrimack as it is a separate governmental organization. Pennichuck does purchase that water for distribution in the Town of Bedford area, one which includes the Greenfield Farms area. If you live in this area (as shown on the map) and receive a bill from Pennichuck Water Works, you are in the area that has been identified having the PFOA contamination. Current level known is 36 parts per trillion. This is an important number as most health standards, you have to have some standard measure. There is no long term health standard set by the EPA for this contaminate. The Governor and Senators (2) are working very hard in pressuring EPA to come out with the long term exposure. There is a short term exposure of 400 parts per trillion that has been set for a 30 day exposure level. We are in a waiting period on the health standard. Until the standard is set, it is difficult for both Pennichuck Water Works and Merrimack Village Water District to know how to treat.

Showing the area on the map – Greenfield Farms, Cabot Preserve Development – showing the Saint Gobain manufacturing facility, over the Merrimack/Bedford Town line (one (1) mile into Merrimack.

PFOA chemical is a byproduct of Teflon production and several other chemicals. It is not in the Teflon, but a byproduct from the creation of it. It was exhausted through the smoke stacks and deposited onto the soils.

Using the map, showing the Saint Gobain facility, (middle of the map) in Merrimack, indicating the Bedford Town line, the circle on the map, is the one mile radius the state has been performing private well testing within a mile of the facility. Anyone over 100 parts per trillion, the state immediately provided bottled water. A week ago, due to the results, the state decided to provide everyone within one mile of the plant who are on private wells, bottled water. Most of Merrimack, approximately 25,000 people are serviced by the Merrimack Village Water District. Therefore, most are on the municipal system, like Greenfield Farms is receiving.

On Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, NH DES announced they would extend the one mile radius to a mile and a half, therefore, more properties and roads in Bedford that will need to have private well testing. There is a link on our Town website, to DES website, how to go about scheduling to have your private well tested. Southern portion of Back River Road, Green Meadow Road, Hemlock, a few on Veronica Drive, these residents will be notified by postcard by NHDES for testing. This is a very specialized test and the state is using the modified method to get the results below 20 parts per trillion. It is very important to follow up with NH DES and their procedure in testing of your well. We do not know if they will be providing bottled water to residents who are beyond the one mile radius.

Merrimack Village Water District and Pennichuck Water Works have both been very responsive regarding this issue. This contaminant can be removed from the water system through charcoal filtration. If at all possible, we will be pushing to have it all removed. Until the standard is set by EPA, it is very difficult for Pennichuck and Manchester Water Works to know how to treat and at what levels to treat.

There is a lot of information on the Town's website as well as NH DES's website. There is full link to the presentation, video of the three hour forum is online through the Town's website or BCTV as well as all of the presentation materials from that evening and the release of Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

Rick stated he will be back to report any updates and keeping everyone informed on the situation.

A motion was made by Mike Sills to adjourn today's meeting; second by Bruce Thomas. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:45 a.m. at BCTV.

Minutes submitted by Joanne E. Fraser, Executive Assistant to Public Works and Water & Sewer Advisory Committee.