



Hill Water Works –

Commissioners Meeting

Meeting Minutes

* **APPROVED** *

July 09th, 2024

Regularly Scheduled Meeting – A Regularly Commissioner's meeting was held in the Hill Public Library at 6:30 p.m. located at 30 Crescent Street Hill, NH 03243.

Board Members Present - Charles Estes, Stephen Thomson and Anthony Cartier

Public Attendance - Joann Irving, Frank Marsh, Joseph Guerriero, Chief of Police, Ellen Guild, Paul Guild, David Thomson Debi Langlais,

Digital audio recorder was started at 6:39 p.m. Stephen Thomson declared the meeting open at 6:40 p.m.

Charles Estes made a motion to table Water Commission business of the Hill Water Works to allow Joann Irving to address the Board. Motion was seconded by Stephen Thomson. Motion passed unanimously.

To provide context – Joann Irving submitted a written request for time during the Water Commissioners meeting to address subjects of concern. Several customers of the Water Works reported receipt of a text message that they had received from Joann Irving stating the following – ***“Hello Joann Irving here – I am contacting members of the water works and asking if they would please attend the July 9th water meeting at 6:30 in the Hill library. Charlie Estes is mismanaging his duties & I want to have a public discussion with the commission. Hope to see you, you’re not obligated to speak but you certainly welcome to if you wish. Thank you. Joann Irving.”*** The message was sent prior to the request for time to address the commissioners. The text message was forwarded to Hill Water Works by customers of the system.

Stephen Thomson provided Joann the opportunity to address the Commissioners. Joann read aloud a prepared statement which she did not provide to the Commissioners. Her statement purported to be an account of Mr. Estes’s “Mishandling of his duties.” The statement never actually articulated any duties or how those duties were being “mishandled.” It was exclusively a character attack of personality and characteristics of Mr. Estes not having any root or foundation in fact and was not substantiated in any way by material support. Throughout the next hour and 45 minutes the commissioners responded to personality attacks of Mr. Estes and responded to Joann’s misunderstandings of the billing process, disapproval of the establishment of the commissioner’s office, disapproval and comments regarding the function of meter reading, secretarial duties and the disapproval of the transition from tax collector billing agent to Superintendent / Commissioner based direct billing. However disapproving, Joann did not actually substantiate any claim of mishandling of duties of the office of superintendent. The end result was best captured through comments of others in attendance at the meeting. The Water Commissioners were complimented for their management of the Water System. Compliments and comments were voiced regarding the way the meeting was handled and in response to the questions that arose. Joann requested the presence Hill Chief of Police and requested that Debi Langlais attend to video record the meetings. Video records can be found by clicking the link <https://www.youtube.com/@hillobserver3636>

The Chairman called for a meeting recess – 8:25 p.m.

The Meeting resumed at approximately 8: 35 p.m.

Approval of Previous Minutes – The board reviewed June Meeting Minutes. Stephen made a motion to accept minutes as presented. Tony seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business –

The commission reviewed contents of email from Shaun Bresnahan following the June 25th Meeting. The 11 pages received raised significantly more questions regarding the accounting practices used by the water commission during the mid. 2006 to 2009 through 2019 opposed to the accounting practices since 2021. The accounting of Retained Earnings, Debt Service, Annual Budgeting in preparation for 2021 – 2022 and accounting of Equity all raise concerns over how the financials were managed during this period.

New Business -

The commission reviewed areas of discussion from the June 25th Joint departmental meeting. It was agreed that another meeting would take place potentially in Late Sept /early October with a follow-up quarterly meeting in December.

- Tank Inspection – Tank is not Lined. Tank requires significant maintenance prior to next inspection.
- Retained Earnings – What does accounting of Retained Earnings relate to? Still Unknown by Shaun or anyone.
- Who instructed Judy to perform the Records production for the Water Commission? Shaun suggests likely Shelly or Lisa.
- How much money from the original loans taken in 2006-2009 / 2012 and NHMBB went to the Water Works and how much was utilized by the Town? What Departments received funds – Fire Department, Streets and Highways? It is suggested ALL FUNDS were used for the Water System. The records that have been reviewed to date do NOT support that assumption.

The Board reviewed the Bank statements and invoices received for payment in July. Approved to be paid..

Having no other business – Stephen made a motion to adjourn Tony 2nd. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approx. 9:16 p.m. The recording was stopped.

Respectfully Submitted - Charles Estes