



## Hill Water Works – Commissioners Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

**\* APPROVED \***

**May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Regularly Scheduled Meeting** – The regularly scheduled Water 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** – Thomas Scribner, Harold Knott, Marshall Bennett, Nate Mills, Paula McDonough and Donald Reese.

Audio recorder was started. – Tony Cartier declared the meeting open at 6:33 p.m.

**Approval of Previous Minutes** – Charlie noted corrections to the spelling of names in the draft of April's minutes. Tony made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Stephen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business-**

- Paula was updated on her question of payment to PSI
- Randall Suozzo Representative from D.E.S. contacted the Water Commission to schedule a Site Survey. Paula asked if he can just schedule that without first making contact. It was explained that he is actually working with us and is being very accommodating during this process. This commentary led to further discussion regarding the status of the pump house.
- The Commission hired Barrett Electric to perform some trouble shooting / testing resulting in a determination that Pump # 1 in Well # 1 was burnt out completely. Wires were strained beyond capacity creating resonance that likely indicated as a ground fault error on VFD # 1. However in response to the Commission request for trouble shooting this system's electrical since May of 2024, the response from PSI was to install a jumper wire from VFD #1 to the Well Pump wiring to Pump # 2 in Well # 2 and operate with a single pump dating as far back as August, 2024. A Christmas, Eve day (Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 2024) email from John Benham asserted that he was going to switch the wiring back to its original state calling it Pre-May configuration. Charlie waited at the pump house throughout the entire day. Benham never showed up, did not answer the phone.

### **New Business –**

- Charlie informed the Commission of scheduling and estimates for parts, engineering, electrical installation and Site Crew including the Crane which is scheduled for Friday morning May 16<sup>th</sup>,.
- Barrett Electric will bring a VFD to operate the new pump after installation. Trouble shooting will be performed on remaining electrical.

- The pump, crane, electrical and Hach parts cost were all disclosed. The suggestion was made to send the pump(s) to Smith Pumps to see if they could rebuild it as a back-up.
- Estimates were reviewed and compared to prior estimates. A motion to expend is required.

## **Status of the Pump House / VFDs / Pumps and Chemical Treatment System -**

The Commissioners commented that many of the things we have been told by PSI, and others turns out to be inaccurate. The pump information was inaccurate. The micro switching components (mercury switches) that were installed to provide the VFDs pressure information are no operational.

Nate Mills asked questions regarding a pump rebuild, warranty information and potential for increased pressure. Stephen explained pressure switching information and original design for a tank supply line.

Charlie expressed the need for 208v opposed to 230v due to the power source of electrical and that voltage pump will better suit the VFD programming. The system has become so antiquated that the data provided is unreliable. The redundancies being installed and updated will provide updated data.

Charlie explained the smell of chlorine from the water at the point of use is the result of less opposed to more. Additionally the Ph probe and Ph Analyzer failed 865 days prior to this meeting. The Ph analyzer probe was found to be burnt out. The analyzer is failing and has been providing unreliable data. The analyzer has not been calibrated for over 3 years being when the Selectmen were performing the duties of the interim water commissioners in 2022- April 2023. Evidence from testing and trouble shooting show most of the failures of equipment and electrical issues occurred and were present during Shaun's period as an interim commissioner.

Marshall asked if the system will be off-line on Friday. The answer was no.

Chris Barrett's estimate for electrical related to pulling the pump is \$1,500.00. SKR Site Services will be pulling the pump and managing the crane. Stephen made a Motion to expend \$8,500. Charlie explained that we don't need to set a cost like appropriations. Paula commented that you don't want to put a cap on this and then have somebody read your notes or listen to the recording and say wait that's not what you said at the meeting. Steven agreed and amended his motion without cost related just for the Water Commission to expend the necessary funds to repair the pump and update the system at the pump house. Tony seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The public present agreed with the decision of the Commissioners. Charlie to maintain records.

Paula McDonough asked again about notes, digital files and commissioners certification. Nate Mills asked if a back up generator should be on site for the repair. Questions led to future repairs. Charlie explained the assets management program and plan for a S.C.A.D.A. system. Harold asked again about taking readings at the Tank. A 4" line directly from the pump house to the tank was introduced. It is very preliminary discussion. A 2+ year plan to create a looped supply was introduced. Grant Funding was discussed. An assets management program is being implemented.

Tom Scribner asked how big a trench would be required to run a supply line. Cost estimates of the Murray Hill Rd, A.C. line abatement and 10<sup>th</sup> Mt. Rd. Section of new supply installation was estimated to be in excess of \$225,000.00.

The concept again arose regarding the Water System becoming a Village District. Other towns are coming out of District as a result of property tax issues.

The Arial photos have been taken and a story board may still occur but is currently surpassed by current repair needs.

Stephen expressed that the reason the Water Commission hasn't addressed current policy issues is because of how busy things have been. Paula raised again the issue of insurance and that the "Town" share responsibility. Paula suggests the water commission acquire the building and property.

General discussion ensued regarding trades, cost of treatment, d1/t1 operators costs, etc. Sampling requirements and D.E.S. requirements. Tom Scribner asked questions regarding the brook water and the Wellhead / Watershed protection area, questions were answered. It was explained that Hill is a Surface Influence to Ground Water supply system.

Having no other business – Stephen made a motion to adjourn. Tony seconded. The meeting was closed and the Commission adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The recording was stopped.

Respectfully Submitted

Charles Estes  
Superintendent / Water Commissioner