

MINUTES

For a special meeting of the Pittsfield Town Council held on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 9:30 am in the Small Conference Room at the Pittsfield Municipal Building.

PRESENT: COUNCILORS: Mayor Tim Nichols, Robert Stackhouse, Caleb Curtis, Deputy Mayor Gary Jordan, Jr., Donna Chale, Christopher Carr, Louise Baker. **ABSENT:** None. Also present: Town Manager Kathryn Ruth. Audience members included: Scott Noble, Mike Lange

1. **Deputy Mayor Jordan** opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The Council observed a moment of silence.
2. **NEW BUSINESS:**

RESOLUTION 10-76: Resolved that the Town Council waive Section 106. Regulations of Bids and Contracts of the Administrative Code to authorize the Town Manager and Assistant Water/Sewer Supervisor to expend up to \$25,000 for well rehabilitation to include hiring a well driller to clean out one of the Town's two wells and to address items found during the project in accordance with the recommendation of Olver Associates, the engineering firm that will oversee the work.

Moved by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Deputy Mayor Jordan** that Resolution 10-76 be adopted.

The Town Manager noted the Town Council received a copy of the agenda and materials on the issue before the Council meeting today. Because of the potential of additional costs on a project such as this, a Resolution was placed on this Special Council Meeting Agenda. Since the Town Councilors were all ready meeting for another event, the timing seemed strategic as the project is one that should be completed as soon as possible.

The Town has two wells that supply water for the service area. One well needs work. The second well seems fine. To summarize, some debris, mostly rocks are plugging part of the screen that stops debris from getting into the water that is being drawn. So the screen is doing its job. Because the debris is lodged against the screen, the water flow is less. The debris needs to be removed. Olver Associates was hired to oversee the process. If this is simply cleaning out these rocks and debris, a well driller would typically cost \$8,000 - \$10,000. If the pump needs to be looked at, an electrician would be needed. If the pump is damaged in any way, we would want to replace the pump while working on this project. A pump of this magnitude would be \$8,000. Other items could come up, therefore, the not to exceed high project cost is \$25,000.

From review in the observation well, it looks like just debris at this point. However, due to the possibility that the pump may have had some damage over the years, it is best to plan for all scenarios.

Plans have been put into effect by the Water Department in case we need to haul in water to fill the tanks for any reason. Depending upon discussions between the State, Engineers and Water Department, a boil water order may be needed as a precaution only.

Olver Associates is conducting some meetings today and information will be provided to the Town on the steps involved. Olver Associates will oversee the project.

Updates will be provided to the Town Councilors and interested parties as the project develops.

Therefore, until the well is opened up and the work begins, we will not know the extent of the work that is needed, therefore, we have tried to plan for all contingencies. Right now, it appears to the engineers that this is blockage removal.

Councilors discussed the well setup and how the cleaning would take place.

Scott Noble explained that the wells were installed in 1998. The Town has monitoring wells with two of them close to the drinking water wells. The Town also has a number of monitoring wells in the fields so that we can measure the depth of the aquifer. The aquifer, which supplies drinking water, is fine. We have two wells, one is 8" and one is 12". Meeting with the well drilling company, it appears that the screen of one of the wells is plugged up with rocks and gravel. The company will video the well. It will be cleaned out with a high-pressure wash. The pump will stay in the well during the pressure treatment. They will also check the pump to make sure that it is alright. The company in Buxton, which Olver Associates recommends, maintains all of Poland Springs wells. Scott advised that Acquirer Maine utilizes a company from out of state to clean out a few of their wells, which have this problem.

The Water Department plans to have the wells checked every couple of years with a video camera and may even purchase its own camera for this specific work. That would be better than hiring a well driller for \$8,000 to video it.

Deputy Mayor Gary R. Jordan, Jr. indicated that the Town Manager and Assistant Water/Sewer Superintendent have this situation under control and that the Town is now starting to plan out water/sewer projects and we are applying for funding sources to deal with this infrastructure.

The Town Manager advised that the Town has made arrangements for the engineers to update the Town on a periodic basis so the Councilors will receive information as she receives reports as we move through the project.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

3. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by **Councilor Stackhouse** and seconded by **Councilor Carr** that the meeting be adjourned at 9:46 a.m. All in agreement.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS AYE

Nicole Nickolan, Town Clerk