



Stratham Public Works Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2019
Municipal Center, Land Use Conference Room
10 Bunker Hill Avenue
Time: 6:30 PM

Members Present: John Boisvert, Chairman
Michael Girard, Member
Joe Lovejoy, Selectmen's Representative

Members Absent: Jim Cushman, Member

Staff Present: Tavis Austin, AICP, Town Planner

1. Call to Order/Roll Call.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30; the Chairman took roll call.

2. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes.

The Commission reviewed minutes of March 07, 2019. J. Lovejoy motioned to approve minutes as presented. M. Girard, seconded; motion approved unanimously.

3. Public Meeting Topics

a. Discussion of potential bylaws/operations

J. Boisvert introduced the task of drafting an operational structure for operating a future water/sewer utility within Stratham. He discussed the following options that the Commission commented on throughout:

1. Exeter owns everything in Stratham. Our District is part of Exeter's franchise. The Stratham businesses/customers are now Exeter's. So long as Exeter does not charge more than 15% more than their own citizens they will not be regulated by the NHPUC.
 - a. Stratham is out of the picture.
 - b. Exeter is responsible for all repair and future replacement
 - c. Exeter is responsible for all customer service and billing
 - d. Stratham or the developer builds the infrastructure to Exeter's requirements and Exeter takes ownership
2. Stratham retains ownership and hires Exeter to be the contract operator
 - a. Stratham retains ownership
 - b. Stratham pays for all planned and unplanned maintenance
 - c. Stratham pays for future replacement
 - d. Stratham pays for Exeter to handle all customer service including new service account setup and billing--*this stuff is negotiable but I recommend it all go to the contract operator and Stratham doesn't have to staff up for it.*
 - e. Stratham provides oversight and pays Exeter.

- 1 f. Stratham sets its own rates
2 3. Same as #2 but Stratham hires a private entity to provide operations and
3 management.
4 4. Stratham retains everything and created its own water and sewer department
5 with licensed operators and technical/administration.
6 a. Several concerns were raised regarding this option. However an
7 expanded DPW department could offer a cost effective option as there
8 will be very few customers and all of the system would be new and
9 Stratham is not responsible for treatment--Exeter treats.

10
11 J. Boisvert concluded his presentation by offering to draft conceptual language for PWC
12 review and comment. The PWC generally consented to this approach; no formal vote.

13
14 **b. Update on “PFC’s” in Stratham**

15 J. Boisvert updated the PWC on the recent NHDES testing results indicating PFC’s in
16 Town Center. His recommendation based on first reaction to the notification was to have
17 the well re-tested.

18 T. Austin reminded Commission that Land Use Department did provide basic water
19 testing kits to public and now adds statement to residents to utilize the provided contact
20 numbers to request particular tests.

21 J. Lovejoy stated concern from the noticed results and suggested the Select Board wanted
22 to be informed of needs would be open to guidance from the Commission.

23
24 **4. Adjournment.**

25 M. Girard made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Motion seconded by J. Lovejoy. Motion
26 carried unanimously.