

TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON WATER COMMISSION
NORTH HAMPTON, NH 03862



Henry Fuller, Co-Chair
Bob Landman, Co-Chair
Tim Harned, Secretary
Richard Bettcher
Jim Maggiore, Select Board Ex-officio

North Hampton Water Commission Meeting
August 1, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.
Heritage Conference Room
(Old) Town Office, 237 Atlantic Avenue

(PRELIMINARY)

Commissioners in attendance:

Richard Bettcher
Henry Fuller, Co-Chair
Tim Harned, Secretary
Robert Landman, Co-Chair
Jim Maggiore, Selectman Representative

Guests:

Fred Welch – Hampton NH Town Manager
Mark Gearreald - Hampton NH Town Attorney

Agenda Item 1:

Mr. Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
The 22-Feb-2016 Water Commission Meeting minutes were approved 4-0-1
The 30-Mar-2016 Water Commission Meeting minutes were approved 4-0-1

Agenda Item 2:

There was a general discussion of the emergency hookup that has taken place between the Aquarion water supply lines in the Winterberry subdivision and the Wiggin Way water system. This was requested due to the drought impact on the Wiggin Way production wells and that those wells are no longer able to fully meet demand. The Aquarion water is to be supplied on an as need basis and is not the primary water source for Wiggin way. This action was approved by the New Hampshire Department of Environment Services, (NHDES). We understand the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC) is aware of the connection but has taken no action regarding the issue. This is a separate issue (drive by the current drought) and no part of the attempt by Wiggin Way to make a permanent connection to Aquarion and for Aquarion to become the permanent water supplier to Wiggin Way.

Then a general discussion began Wiggin Way's request to transfer the Wiggin Way's water system assets to Aquarion and Aquarion would become permanent water supplier to Wiggin Way.

This proposal has been under way for many months now and is not related to the current drought situation. A summary of this efforts and the reasons behind it is outlined directly below.

In summary:

- Wiggin Way consists of 39 Homes relying on a small private community water system.
- Originally there were 3 production wells producing 30 gpm.
- 1 well was shut down due to high arsenic.
- 2 remaining wells produce 10 gpm.
- Arsenic levels have been increasing and have just tested over limit.
- NHDES has told Wiggin Way they have to improve water sources.
- Wiggin Way is proposing to connect their system to Aquarion at the Winterberry-Wiggin Way boundary.
- Required steps:
 - Stratham Public Works has approved the concept.
 - Working with the NHDES and NHDES supports the concept.
 - Home Owners Association needs to approve concept.
 - Stratham Planning Board approval required.
 - Stratham Select Board approval required.
 - New Hampshire Public Utility Commission (PUC) approval required.
- Wiggin Way would turn infrastructure over to Aquarion and it would become an Aquarion asset.
- Aquarion would decommission production wells.

The Town Of North Hampton representatives indicated that with official action has not yet been taken the consensus of opinions express so far appear to oppose the connection for a variety of reasons.

The North Hampton Water Commission reiterated previously statedas well as additional concerns:

- Were all other options considered?
 - Improve existing wells or drill new wells.
 - Treatment for arsenic in existing system?
 - Cost estimate \$20,000 to install and \$2000-3,000/yr.
 - Homes install individual wells?
- Aquarion not authorized to operate in Stratham.
 - Potential expansion of Aquarion into other towns.
 - Will other developments with Stratham then want to connect to the other side of Wiggin Way and or have emergency hookups?
 - Will this provide intervenor stator to Stratham in future NHPUC actions?
 - Increased demand of North Hampton water resources.

Mr. Landman made a motion that, based on information currently available, the Water Commission opposes the permanent interconnection of Aquarion to Wiggin Way, if this action does go before the NHPUC, the Commission will request intervenor status and further the Water Commission recommends to the North Hampton Board of Selectman that the Selectman: oppose the interconnection between Aquarion and Wiggin Way, the Town also request intervener status for any related actions before the NHPUC, the Town explore with Hampton a joint effort in opposition to the interconnection and the sharing of any related expenses. Mr. Fuller seconded the motion and the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Fuller adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:15 pm.