

Town of Farmington  
Board of Selectmen Public Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 8, 2024  
Selectmen's Chambers  
356 Main Street-Farmington, NH 03835

**Board Members Present:**

Gerry Vachon, Chairman  
Penny Morin, Vice Chairman  
Ann Titus  
Doug Staples  
Charlie King

**Others Present:**

Ken Pimental, Town Administrator  
Chuck Tiffany, Water/Sewer Dept. Supervisor  
Rick Skarinka, NH DES Water Engineer  
Keith Pratt, Underwood Engineers President  
Dan Tinkham, EGGI Senior Consultant  
Jim Ricker, resident

**1). Call to Order:**

Chairman Vachon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2). Non-Public Session A:**

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, Morin, Titus, Staples, King-aye) at 5:31 p.m.

**Motion:** (Titus, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:41 p.m.

**3). Non-Public Session B:**

**Motion:** (King, second Titus) to enter non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation passed 5-0 by a roll call vote (Vachon, Morin, Titus, Staples, King-aye) at 5:43 p.m.

**Motion:** (King, second Vachon) to come out of non-public session passed 5-0 at 5:54 p.m.

**4). Reconvene Public Session:**

Mr. Vachon reconvened the public session at 6:01 p.m.

**5). Pledge of Allegiance:**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6). Public Input:** None

**7). Review of Minutes:**

**March 25, 2024- Non-Public Sessions A-E-** No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Staples, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.

**Motion:** (Morin, second Titus) to seal the Non-Public Session D minutes for 3 years as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0.

**April 1, 2024-Non-Public Sessions A-D-** No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Morin, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.



**Motion:** (Morin, second Titus) to seal Non-Public Session A for 3 years as disclosure would adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the board passed 5-0.

**March 25, 2024-Public Session-** No errors or omissions

**Motion:** (Morin, second Titus) to accept the minutes as written passed 5-0.

**8). Old Business:**

**New Well Update-** Mr. Dickie said he asked for Emery & Garrett and Underwood Engineers to come to the meeting to give us a briefing as to where we're at with the project and we also have Rick Skarinka from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services.

Keith Pratt with Underwood Engineers thanked the board for having them in and with Dan Tinkham of Emery & Garrett they are working together to get this project done for them. He said they just got introduced to Rick Skarinka who is with DES and is helping with the funding. He said they handed out a couple of figures and wanted to give them an update on where they are with the project. He said they are making progress and are moving along and they have probably seen some activity on the road and they are really just in the design phase and in the final investigation phases of the well. I'll give you a quick overview of the whole project again just to remind everybody what we're doing and then Dan is going to speak to the wells and the well sites he said.

Mr. Pratt said the first map that they gave them (Water System Improvements-Environmental Review Workplan) shows the entire water system in Farmington. He said the green is the village area and the blue is the southern part of the system and they are at different pressures and different grade lines. He said this project is focused and the primary goal was to try to take advantage of your good sources in the south and to get water that's on in the well #6 area up to the north because of the water quality issues they're having in the wells #4 and #5 area.

He said central to the project is a transmission main replacement that's on Rt. 153 and that's occurring about from the fire station up to just north of the Cocheco River. He said they don't have to cross the bridge they did that a while ago. He said there are some PRV improvements that will occur around the fire station and there is a possibility they are looking at a booster pump there to try to control the grade line and get the water to move reliably to the north.

Mrs. Morin asked what PRV improvements stands for.

Mr. Pratt said because the blue and the green areas are different pressures there's a valve pit there that controls the differential pressures and allows water to pass by dropping the pressure to the north so Pressure Reducing Valve is what the PRV stands for.

He said they are looking at replacing that 6-inch and 8-inch pipe that's highlighted in red to 12-inch and it's about 4,000 ft. of pipe that's budgeted for that. He said there will be those PRV improvements to help make sure the water moves to the north and they are looking at the possibility of needing a little booster/pumping station there to push that water to the north reliably and consistently.

He said that will be one project that's going to be bid separately from the wells and once that transmission main design is complete, they will put that out to bid this spring/summer. He said



the other part of the project is the replacement well and Dan will speak to that and then they can talk about some questions but there's 2 sites being looked at, a new well in the south at well #6 and then there's a well in the north that's being looked at in the wells #4 and #5 area. He asked Mr. Tinkham to speak to the 2 options that are in front of us now.

Mr. Tinkham began with Figure 1 of the handouts that shows all the test well locations located down near the existing well #6 at the southern end of town. He said the yellow circle represents a 400 ft. radius around the well named FRM-SG2F that was the most productive of all the wells they drilled out there and it happens to be right along your existing main between the production well #6 and the pump station building just inside the left-hand side of that yellow circle.

He said if you look at Table II which is the next page you can see in the far right column the specific capacity that's a measure of productivity of a well that they use which is basically the gallons per minute you can pump out of a well and the amount of drawdown you induce in that well. He said they could see the top one has a value of 158 that is highly favorable, very, very productive material. He said all the others-some of them are reasonable, the 2G is pretty good at 21.7, but SG2F really stands out as a real highlight.

Mr. Tinkham said the following table highlights the chemistry that they collected from those wells and SG2F is highlighted in yellow on this table and if they look across they can see there is no iron in that well at all and the manganese is pretty low at 0.036, the secondary Maximum Contaminant Level for that is 0.05 so we're pretty far below it. He said all the other chemistry looks pretty favorable at that location so in the well #6 area SG2F is by far the most favorable location.

He said they also continued test well drilling up at one more location, the location of production wells #4 and #5 adjacent to the cemetery (Figure 2). He said in the middle of that yellow circle which is also a 400 ft. radius, there's a well there, 45L and that was the most recent test well they installed in this area. He said it's also fairly productive, not as productive as the one down in the southern end of town-the specific capacity is 12.8. He said the good news about 45L is that it's a little deeper they used their geophysical modeling techniques to find a spot that's a little bit deeper and closer chemistry-wise and 45L is kind of in a sweet spot.

He said if you look at the following table, Table 2, 45L is highlighted in yellow and you can see the iron is 0.029, manganese is 0.037 and both are within the current guidelines for those 2 compounds.

Mr. Tinkham said other test wells nearby and of course production wells #4 and #5 do have high manganese and iron some of them so this 45L is in the one spot in the middle of this small aquifer where the chemistry is pretty favorable.

Mrs. Morin asked if the chemistry will stay that way.

Mr. Tinkham said that's the long term question everybody wants to know. He said if it pumps consistently for years and years like the production well down at well #6 it's likely the manganese is going to go up over time, the iron may go up also and the manganese is the



closest to the MCL so they would be concerned about that.

He said there's not an easy answer to that question and he thought they ought to assume it will creep up over time, well #5 crept up over time.

Mr. King asked if well #5 is above the limit.

Mr. Tinkham said well #5 is above the limit.

Mr. King asked Mr. Tiffany if well #4 is above the limit.

Mr. Tiffany said he was not sure if well #5 is above the state standards right at the moment as they changed the state standard for manganese last year.

Mr. Skarinka said they haven't changed it.

Mr. Tiffany said he knows it's close on well #5.

Mr. King said they just had this conversation a couple of days ago and his impression was that well #4 was below the limit but he was concerned that if they dropped the limit it may be above.

Mr. Tiffany said he was concerned where #5 is on the border of the limit and if they put a new one in there and the state lowers that limit again will we need a treatment plant over there eventually.

Mr. King said if we want to maintain a well there and they drop the value we're going to be treating for manganese in the wells we have now so if we put in another well we'd still have to treat it. He said we're currently at 2/3 of the acceptable limit and they would have to drop it more than 30%. He asked what the standard was before the current manganese level.

Mr. Tinkham said the secondary contaminant level for manganese has been at 0.05 for many years but they did create a new primary standard for manganese which is .84 which is much, much higher and they didn't have to worry about those concentrations. He said he thinks that's only change in maximum contaminant level that's happened for manganese for decades.

Mr. Skarinka came forward and explained there is a primary standard, drinking water standards and then there are secondary drinking water standards. He said the primary are the ones where you have to meet them and the secondary ones are more of an aesthetic issue and in the past iron has been a secondary standard and then manganese has been in the past a secondary standard at 0.05. He said the EPA has adopted a health advisory of a manganese standard of 0.3 mg per liter and there are some health issues above the 0.3 if it's in the water.

Mr. King asked if meant .03.

Mr. Skarinka said no .3 and that's well above the .05. He said last year the DES proposed a primary drinking water standard of manganese of .3 but that rule-making was pulled back from adoption and frankly with the political wind or whatever it wasn't going to be adopted but that is still a health risk at that .3 level. He said when the DES would adopt a .3 standard is hard to say but it may happen in the next 5 years.

Mr. King said he mentioned another one that was .08.

Mr. Skarinka said .05 is the secondary standard and the .3 is the number that they don't want to even come close to. He said another standard is .1 mg per liter there's health-based information



saying that's at risk to infants only.

Mr. King said the current standard is .05.

Mr. Skarinka said that's a secondary and they don't enforce secondary standards at this time. He said there's no primary MCL right now for manganese but the well #4 water quality is elevated manganese and there's color, there's high organics, there are a lot of other things and there was some piloting done to see what it would take to treat well #4 and it was...

Mr. Pratt said they couldn't treat it because of the organics.

Mr. Skarinka said it's not just manganese they're dealing with there are also other contaminants that are very difficult to treat. He said the manganese they are addressing allowed them to apply for the funding they offer and they looked at that as the primary purpose of the well but the water quality in #4 is not good for other contaminants too. It needs replacement whether it's down in that area or some other place in town he said.

Mr. King said he was hoping they could retain the use of well #5 if we need it.

Mr. Skarinka said as a backup that's correct. He said his understanding is at well #5 the manganese levels are not anywhere near .3 so that as is would make the proposed standards. He said if they put another well down in that area they don't know how long that's going to last at that current water quality and if they keep pumping it the levels could elevate and then at some point in the future they may need to address that.

Mr. Tinkham said a new well up there, if they use it as a backup well truly most of the water is coming from #6 they could turn it on temporarily if they have a pump malfunction or something happens at the well #6 site so redundancy of another well field is part of the discussion and do you want that extra safety. He said if they flip #5 on, you're going to be border line quality whereas a new one they might have just enough to get by if it was at 45L. If you pumped it for a long time you're probably going to get the high manganese so it comes down to a balancing act of is it worth a new production well for short term use as a redundant supply or do you live with the chemistry at #5 he said.

Mr. King asked what happens if well #6 gets polluted then they have no alternative.

Mr. Pratt said they would still have well #5.

Mr. King said if they were to site another well down there instead of a replacement well up on that end and they have contamination down there they would lose 2 high producing wells and the wells we have up here wouldn't be sufficient. He asked if we were to lose well #6 temporarily can well #5 keep up the volume.

Mr. Tiffany said no.

Mr. Pratt said the well #4 replacement well up north is actually a much lower producing well than the new well down at #6 and potentially could be tiered.

Mr. Staples said if they put a new well down where well #6 is it's going to be handicapped and they're only going to be able to pump so much out of it a year. He said it's right on that Cocheco River aquifer.

Mr. Pratt said the state has indicated that they may relax on that for you.



Mr. Staples emphasized "may".

Mr. Pratt said their initial conversations were that their argument would be you're pumping the well up here, putting it back in the aquifer and putting it back in the river-you're actually not withdrawing it you're just recycling it so there is an argument so they could avoid those restrictions for you.

Mr. Skarinka asked if it would be nice to have a replacement for well #4 down there that meets the standards and a new well #6 which gives you production rate. He said he didn't know of another well in the state that he has heard that specific capacity out of that well #6 so it could be up to a million gallons a day which you don't need but there's that potential capacity. He said can you have all of that is the question.

Mr. Pratt said they're saying both and you may only have the money to get one in this time but you are keeping both options open.

Mr. King asked if they can permit a well down by well #6 and implement one up here by #4 so if we need to add that they can add that later.

Mr. Pratt said yes or vice versa and they're trying to keep those options open for them.

Mr. King said he was not opposed to permitting both locations and with what they have for infrastructure supporting it in 2 different areas it would make sense to make this the primary unless they can put both wells online with what we've got connected to the infrastructure.

Mr. Skarinka said he didn't know.

Mr. Pratt said there are still pumping tests to look at water quality further to make final decisions but right now both are on the table and the transmission main in between allows you to go in either direction.

Mr. King said they have to improve that line anyway because of its age and size so he didn't disagree with replacing that. He said it's just their concern where we have had contamination issues with some of our wells especially where it's a gravel packed aquifer it could be a catastrophe when we lose water quality on that and it's got nothing to do with us.

Mr. Skarinka said if there was another well on #6 this new proposed well is on this side of the river so you're on 2 sides of the river.

Mr. King said but the side that's on the river is Rt. 11 and some other industrial uses that are close by.

Mr. Staples asked if he was saying that river would protect us from contamination.

Mr. Skarinka said potentially it could be a ground water boundary.

Mr. Staples said the side of the river that well #6 is on is also the old Farmington landfill which isn't very far and beside that you have the old Cardinal landfill and who knows what's in that.

Mr. Tinkham said none of the testing they've done has indicated anything from those landfills has made it that far. He said if there were 2 wells down there at well #6, they both would have excellent communication with the river it's the nature of that river and the aquifer there's no confining play in it to separate you so it could be an effective hydraulic barrier. He said when #6 pumps we don't see it over at this proposed location of 2F that tells us that a lot of the water



for #6 is probably coming from the river because it's not that far away. He said so vice versa when we pumped the 8-inch test well that we're putting in next to 2F, when we pump that on the other side of the river, we'll keep track of all the wells on the other side of the river and then we'll learn a lot about the hydraulic nature of the aquifer there which will give us some more assurance about the contamination.

Mr. King asked if these other locations in yellow (Figure 1) are test wells that have been put in and will be monitored during the pumping.

Mr. Tinkham said yes.

Mr. Staples asked why they put test wells on property we don't even own and in a swamp.

Mr. Tinkham asked where that was.

Mr. Staples said SG2C and D those are on Pike's and that is pretty swampy and nasty in there so we'd be right back with the same problem we were with well #4.

Mr. Tinkham said those were early test wells put in before the Town controlled the property where #6 is and you didn't own all that land then so there was an exploration project that identified Pike as one of the favorable zones so they put test wells in.

Mr. King asked how long ago those were put in.

Mr. Tinkham said he believed it was in 2016. He said it was done during the town-wide study to identify favorable zones and this was zone SG2 so that's why most of the wells there are labeled SG2. He said those were early on but they haven't been considered for a production well since.

Mr. Pratt said Emery & Garrett is doing some more testing on these 2 wells one in the south and one in the north and that's happening...

Mr. Tinkham said the two 8-inch production wells should be constructed at the end of April and then they're going to move into the pumping test phase so by the middle to end of May they should have the 5 day pumping tests completed from those two 8-inch wells. He said they will do a full suite of chemistry on both of them and that will give them a much better indication of what the actual chemistry would be from a production well at both these sites.

Mr. Staples asked how old well #5 is.

Mr. Tiffany said it was built in the early 1980's.

Mr. Tinkham said the last 2 figures he has are up north as there was some interest about looking up north so Figure 3 is off Spring St. right between Spring St. and Bay Rd. primarily and those are the 3 areas they also looked into and they haven't identified anything.

Mr. King asked which ones he was referring to.

Mr. Tinkham said the orange ones in the middle, SG7A, SG7C and SG7D those are recent exploratory test wells. He said if you go to the next figure (Figure 4) it shows the total depths and all of them were very shallow between 20.5 ft. to 23 ft. to bedrock so they just couldn't find the depth. He said it was really good material but they could not find the depth with the setbacks from the house itself.

Mr. King asked if there was pumping done there to show what the capacity might be.

Mr. Tinkham said they couldn't even install wells they're so shallow there was no draw down



potential because the river is say 20 ft. down below where they drilled these and so the water table is down about 20 ft., we drilled them and hit bedrock at 20 to 22 ft. so there's no saturated thickness in the consolidated. There probably is out on Spring St. but you have all sorts of houses and we need a 400 ft. setback so there's just no available territory in that middle tier there to get deep enough material of the thick material he said.

He said years ago this blue well down in the south was put in a long peninsula owned by the Orchard Development now where the Cocheco and Mad Rivers come together and it's out in a very flood prone area. He said that test well was put in and was tested by GZA back in the '80's but they had very, very high iron and high manganese it's all on the right-hand side of this figure so it's not a very viable alternative.

He said the last area up in the north there's 3 wells labeled FRM-7A, FRM-7B and FRM-7C those are identified on their original study and this is a secondary favorable zone for bedrock test wells. He said it is pretty difficult to get to, they were not their primary zone for bedrock so they're not high up on the list of places they want to put expensive test wells in honestly. But those were identified about 15 or 20 years ago now he said.

Mr. Tinkham said the north end of town they've kind of written off.

Mr. King asked if those were also done in the Emery & Garrett study in 2016.

Mr. Tinkham said those were the later phases of the original, the original phase I town-wide study they did and that identified this as favorable zone FRM-7 which was secondary bedrock zone. He said they didn't even consider the sand and gravel because of the lack of setbacks. He said they did test those once you acquired this property, they said they have to put the test wells in to see if maybe they were wrong but they were right it's just too shallow.

Mr. Skarinka asked what Figure 4 is.

Mr. Tinkham said that's a blow-up of the SG7 wells that were put in relative to Spring St. He said they just can't get the 400 ft. radius they need around those houses there and they couldn't go further to the south. He said that's all the exploration they've done in town except for further south in the old Bradsheer pit where they did some wells years ago.

Mr. Staples said they're not going to get the 400 ft. radius on Rt. 11 either then because they have a big chunk of that lady's property cut off.

Mr. Tinkham said for the antique that's going to require a waiver from the state.

Mr. Staples asked what the difference would be on Spring St.

Mr. Tinkham said too many buildings the 400 ft. radius would go over the buildings on Spring St. if they moved the well further to the south whereas this one trims the back edge of the property and they'll have to make an assessment and present it to DES requesting a waiver for the 400 ft. setback in that one triangle of land and make an argument that it's not buildable and some of it's pretty steep slopes so they probably can't put a building there anyway.

Mr. King asked if they would have to get an easement from that landowner.

Mr. Tinkham said they would either have to get an easement or purchase it so they control it outright or if DES will go for the waiver they might be able to waive the rule.



Mr. King asked if they could request a waiver because it's potentially out of the flow of the groundwater because it's almost down stream of it a little bit or beside it.

Mr. Tinkham said he thought it will be in your capture zone and he couldn't argue that the water on that parcel is not going to make it there because when a well pumps it sends draw down out in every direction so it has to go south of the site downstream of the river and it's going to capture all the flow lines coming out of the property. So, it's going to come down to is it possible to build on that land he said.

Mr. Skarinka said it has to do with the geographic terrain-steep slopes you can't do anything, you can't do anything if it's wet.

Mr. Tinkham said they've had many waiver requests over the years accepted usually when they're wetlands or steep slopes some places where you just can't build. He said they would have to look at that lot from the Town's standpoint-is it buildable, can somebody put another building on that land or maybe the person is willing to negotiate with the Town to just pass it over to you. There are various avenues but the well is so good and we can't just move it over 100 ft. because then we lose the really good material and you end up in the river and the floodplains. Geographically we got really lucky that we had really good material in the one site where there is almost a complete 400 ft. radius and I think DES will cooperate with the Town in terms of getting that waiver but we'd have to talk to the people in drinking water and ground water but they kind of know about it he said.

Mr. King asked how much pumping they have done on these 2 sites.

Mr. Tinkham said just from the 3-inch test wells right now they've pumped and now they're in the process of building the 8-inch wells.

Mr. King asked how long they pumped before they tested it.

Mr. Tinkham said they pumped for 2-3 hours to measure the productivity and the chemistry. He said the 8-inch wells go in in the next month, they pump them for 5 days and that will allow them to pump at full rate and maybe they will pump half a million gallons a day for 5 straight days from the wells. That's how we're going to know we have the right chemistry he said.

Mr. King asked if they were going to pump both locations at 500,000 gallons a day.

Mr. Tinkham said the northern one probably won't be worth that but the southern one certainly will be.

Mr. Skarinka asked projected out what does the town need for production, what is each well now they would project them at if they can based upon the specific capacity.

Mr. Tinkham said the one in the south near well #6 is probably a half to a million gallon a day well.

Mr. Skarinka asked Mr. Tiffany for the current water supply demand.

Mr. Tiffany said it's 300,000 gallons a day.

Mr. Tinkham said up north it would be a replacement well for well #4 but that's only rated at a couple hundred gallons a minute so they can't pump more than 200 gallons a minute so that's probably 200,000 gallons a day.



Mr. Pratt said the thing to remember about those wells is well #4 is a replacement well so they're not adding any water to the system they're just replacing well #4. He said Farmington just needs to maintain the water supplies they have but with well #6 you're actually adding half a million to 1 million gallons of water a day, that's new water to you.

Mr. King said we're permitted for 400,000 on well #6 now.

Mr. Skarinka said the new well #6 is a new large groundwater well.

Mr. King said the current well #6 is permitted for 400,000 gallons and its capacity is 500,000 and the average is 200,000 so we're permitted for 600,000 now and our use is 300,000 now.

Mr. Pratt said he wished he brought that report with him. He said the new well at well #6 would add supply to whatever you have there, the one at well #4 does not.

Mr. King said but still we would be at permitted capacity twice what our current usage is.

Mr. Pratt said you only need to maintain what you have to be okay so anything beyond that is surplus or redundancy.

Mr. Skarinka said on the new well #6 they don't need a million gallons so they could put a different pump in there at a different capacity and not pump as much knowing that you could in the future if you needed to put a new pump in the well and get more out of that.

Mr. King said but we already have that capacity at the current well #6.

Mr. Skarinka said if there was growth in town that would address any growth if the town incurred that in the future.

Mr. Tinkham said and you'd have full redundancy down in the south end of town. He said you'd have 2 full pumping wells so if one goes down the other one would be right there.

Mr. King asked if the 5 day pumping tests are going to be done by May.

Mr. Tinkham said they're scheduled for mid-to late May.

Mr. King said that would give us more testing.

Mr. Pratt said the good news is they don't have to make a decision today and they will get more information before they have to do that.

Mr. Skarinka said he thought it was all good news and it looks like they may have some choices. He said it would be great to do everything but whether you have the financial resources to do everything is a big question and if not maybe you'll have to say what do we prioritize at that point in time.

Mr. Vachon returned to Spring St./Bay Rd. and asked if they only drilled 3 test wells up there.

Mr. Tinkham said yes.

Mr. Vachon said so on that 370 acre parcel they checked a couple of acres worth of it.

Mr. Tinkham said that's the only location where there was a viable thickness and material type to do an unconsolidated well-a sand and gravel well. He said the rest of the site is shallow to bedrock, glacial till, and that was potential for a bedrock location but there's no other location for a sand and gravel well.

Mr. King said but that data was obtained in the Emery & Garrett study from 2016.

Mr. Tinkham said for the bedrock wells they did there but recently he went out and mapped



and did geophysics right where the 3 wells are.

Mr. King asked if the other areas besides the 3 test wells and the other side if there was data in the original study to disqualify the rest of the area that the Town now owns. He said they did a study based on soil types and some other scanning

Mr. Tinkham said they did geophysical studies out there and they did a lot. He said what they came up with was those 3 green dots there the bedrock wells which were considered secondary so they were lower targets on their list. He said they did a town-wide study and the lineage that they did which is looking down from space and from aerial platforms trying to find surface expressions of subsurface features like faults or cracks in the rocks these green dots are the only places they felt justified more work and testing. He said the rest of this property it's not to say they couldn't go out and spend a lot more money and do a lot of geophysics and you might find something today but there's nothing in their early phase to say go put a test well in.

Mr. King said as you get more southerly you have a water body in there and asked if none of the testing around that or in this area showed better than these.

Mr. Tinkham said no it's shallow so it's there's almost no over burden material, it's shallow to bedrock and the bedrock seems to be very competent rock. He said there's always a chance there's a high yielding fracture somewhere but all of their techniques they used to identify those things just don't highlight anything. It all comes down to a question of probability and these are the best locations we have to date to try test well drilling but they're down on our list he said.

Mr. Skarinka said he was asked about doing a bedrock well and bedrock wells are typically less yielding as far as the sand and gravel wells and the water quality can change a lot more drastically in bedrock wells.

Mr. King said those 3 wells there were test wells in area 3 and asked what the water quality out of those was.

Mr. Tinkham said those weren't drilled they're proposed targets and they didn't even build the wells because there wasn't enough saturation.

Mr. King said he has a well over on the other side of Rt. 11 but it's an artesian well and it has very good capacity but the quality is not good.

Mr. Tinkham said they have 3 primary bedrock favorable zones from their first study mostly on the other side of Rt. 11 but they're further from the distribution system, they're out of town so they require significant infrastructure to get there so the Town never pursued them. He said they did do a lot of geophysics and they staked locations where they thought it was probably worth doing it but it's a different ballgame. If you can get a million gallon a day well from well #6 that's where everybody goes first because you get a bigger bang for your buck he said.

Mr. Pratt said 300 ft. from your infrastructure and your pump house so that's pretty rare.

Mr. Skarinka said you can spend a lot of money looking at it, so if you want to spend the money and continue looking for wells you can.

Mr. King said the original study that was done when he was here on the board Emery & Garrett



did the study was pretty thorough and they found some decent bedrock wells on the west side but the location was miles from the infrastructure and it would have been nice but it's tough ground to get over.

Mr. Pratt said they would be back in May to make a final decision on the sites and the next direction.

Mr. Tinkham said it could be early June and they could try to rush some of the results from the lab. He said they would be doing iron and manganese sampling right through this test especially at wells #4 and #5 and they'll see if there's a trend.

Mr. King asked if he was saying they're going to continually test the 3-inch well that's up there.

Mr. Tinkham said no these are the 8-inch wells that have been installed.

Mr. King said he thought he said they were doing quality testing before and after the 5 days.

Mr. Tinkham said they just did that on the 3-inch production wells and during the 5 days they will do it.

Mrs. Morin asked as they're pumping through if they're going to take random tests.

Mr. Tinkham said yes twice a day they collect samples and send them to a lab and they have a few testing kits also so they can keep an eye on if the iron concentrations are changing over time.

Mr. Pratt said he brushed over the distribution in the Rt. 153 section early on in the meeting and asked if the board had any more questions on that piece of it.

Mr. Skarinka asked when that would go out.

Mr. Pratt said they have some funding commitments that they have to have some contracts signed by this fall.

Mr. King said he said bid this spring/summer and Mrs. Morin said it says the summer of 2024.

Mr. Pratt said this summer and that's not far. He said it's a little challenging for this because of where the well is does impact some of the improvements on Rt. 153 so there's a little "chicken and the egg" thing.

Mr. King asked what items are those.

Mr. Pratt said they have the well in the south they have to make sure they can get the water to the north so they're probably going to be looking at a booster pumping station to move that water and if they end up in the north they don't so there are some things like that that they're still working on.

Mr. King said so bringing the new well #6 online is not just 300 ft. of infrastructure and the boost pump.

Mr. Pratt said there's probably a booster station and there's some well pumps they may need to replace.

Mr. King asked if the booster station would be where the PRV is.

Mr. Pratt said yes, probably there.

Mr. King asked if the PRV is still going to stay.

Mr. Pratt said yes because they are still trying to maintain the 2 pressures.



Mr. King asked if none of the sizing of the pipe will change on either solution.

Mr. Pratt said no they are going to replace as much of 6-inch and 8-inch old age pipe as possible to 12-inch. He said they are targeting everything in red and there's one section down below that's still yellow just south of the fire station if they have the money, they will do that too because that's 8-inch. It just depends on the availability of funds but we're going to be replacing a bunch of pipes on Rt. 153 he said.

Mr. Skarinka asked Mr. Pratt if a booster station doesn't go in can they get the water from the south to the north.

Mr. Pratt said you can get the water from the south to the north with the pipe replacement but what they're trying to do with the booster station is control water quality and the turnovers in the tank. He said if they're putting their eggs in the south they won't have that control, if they're putting their eggs in the north with the new well it's less necessary. He said with pipe replacement they can do it but if they also want to maintain water quality in your tanks, turn over the tanks then moving water around in a booster station is a reliable way to do that.

Mr. King asked about the age of 8-inch pipe they talked about potentially replacing.

Mr. Pratt said there's some 6-inch too and he didn't know the age but he knew it's been a maintenance issue because it's under sized and it's aged.

Mr. King said it seems to him to be more of a requirement than it would be nice.

Mr. Pratt said they're replacing pipe...

Mr. King pointed out the yellow section he was referring to on the lower portion of the map.

Mr. Pratt said it's just whether it's \$2 million a mile or \$1.55 million a mile if they can get it in there. He said they have \$7.2 million to do the well sites and the connections. We're trying to stay out of the pavement too to keep the cost down he said.

Mr. Vachon said he couldn't really tell where they are proposing to replace the 12-inch but he does know that in Somersworth they are doing a water main replacement and the DOT is forcing them out of the pavement and through a wetland because they don't care if they have to pay more they just don't want it under their pavement.

Mr. Tinkham said they're doing the same here.

Mr. Vachon said only in DOT District 6 statewide every other district doesn't care.

Mr. Pratt said they're out of the pavement more often than not but he thinks it's going to be lower cost for you to be out of the pavement so they're in the gravel shoulders and in the right-of-way so it's okay and they're staying out of the wetlands and trying to avoid those as well.

Mr. King asked when they get downtown which side of the road would they be on.

Mr. Pratt said they're going to be on the east side.

Mr. King said he was saying they're out from beneath the pavement the entire way.

Mr. Pratt said wherever they can, there are some places where you have to get in but for the most part they're going to be out. He said there are some utility poles out there too so they're squeezing in between the poles and the pavement and the property lines. It's easy digging but there's not a lot of room he said.



Mr. King said it's going all the way down to right out here (pointing out the front windows).

Mr. Pratt said it's just short of here so just north of the (Main St.) bridge a little bit because there's a small section of 6-inch just north of the bridge. He said the bridge has been done and the state replaced the bridge 5 or 10 years ago or whenever that was and there is 12-inch underneath the river now.

Mr. Tiffany corrected that it's under the bridge.

Mr. King said so not in front of Crowley's.

Mr. Pratt said no they're stopping at...

Mr. Vachon said the second section of 375 ft. shows it goes all the way to here.

Mr. Staples said it goes all the way to Rt. 75.

Mr. Vachon said there's 2 sections-one before the bridge and one after the bridge.

Mr. Patt said so they're looking at that one too.

Mr. Staples said so that's going under the pavement.

Mr. Pratt said that's a lower priority section so they would get some of the stuff down below first because that would be a more expensive section. He said they are trying to get to the other looping pipes so everything that's not looped they want to have bigger pipes and the looping begins right here. He said if money becomes tight saving some money is reducing the amount of pipe that they build to stay under \$7.2 million. If the bids come in high or construction costs continue to rise that's where we're going to have to pinch back a little bit he said.

Mr. King asked when they go out to bid if they are going to build this as a multi-item bid.

Mr. Pratt said they are.

Mr. King said if they're going to drop sections out of that they need to have it quoted in sections so they know what the cost is.

Mr. Pratt said it's a unit price so they can take it out foot by foot. He said they will bid it to see what the pricing is and based on the bids they can scale it back.

Mr. King asked if the board is going to see the bid before it goes out.

Mr. Pratt said the board, the state and everybody is going to get a chance to see it before it goes out. He said they meet monthly with the team so they check in with Chuck every month to go over the status of where we are.

Mr. Skarinka said once they get the bids for that water main that will give you a much better perspective on what you have available for the well funds. He said if it comes in low then you have more money to direct toward well developments whatever you choose. He said they mentioned coming back in May once more information is available for the wells but even then they may not want to make a final decision until they have the bids for the water main.

Mr. Pratt said they will probably try to structure the bid for them so with the alternates and the added pipe they may not even award it right away until they know what the well costs are so they can have some flexibility to add some pipe work in later too if the wells come in low.

Mrs. Morin asked if there are any additional grants for the infrastructure of the pipe.

Mr. Pratt said the grant is helping them there too already.



Mr. Skarinka said not at this time.

Mr. Vachon asked if this is the main supply line that they're going to be replacing.

Mr. Pratt said yes.

Mr. Vachon asked if there is going to be temp service or is that going to be lay the new next to it.

Mr. Pratt said during construction they hope to lay the new next to it and avoid the temporary service.

Mr. Vachon said so it's not rip and replace it's going to be lay a new one, test it and then tie it in.

Mr. Tinkham and Mr. Pratt nodded yes. Mr. Pratt said they think there is enough room to do that. He said they talked about it and they think they can do it that way.

Mr. Skarinka said once this gets closer to actually happening his suggestion is to have a public information meeting especially the people that are on that stretch and let them know who they can call if they have questions and things like that. It's a huge project for the town he said.

There were no other questions and the board thanked them for the information.

**Levee Inspection Scheduled for 05/07/2024-** Mr. Dickie said they were going to have it in later April but to get the whole team there it has been scheduled for May 7 and he wanted to bring that to the board's attention. He said if they have May 7 available, they will be walking the full length of the levee and he will let the people by Central St. know they will be there so there won't be any repercussions from people about crossing their property without them knowing it. He said he also talked to the Army Corps of Engineers and told them we are waiting for their proposal for the engineering study for the levee and she said they hoped to have that ready at the same time that the inspection so we would know what that cost would potentially be.

Mr. Staples asked if he knew what time the walk is going to happen.

Mr. Dickie said it's right around 10:30 a.m. or so but as they get closer he will get that e-mailed out to them when that appointment is sent to him.

Mr. Vachon asked didn't they do it in the afternoon last year or if that was a different walk. He said last year they did it before a meeting because he recalled they walked that whole river and they came out in a different yard and they weren't happy because they weren't notified.

Mr. Dickie said the initial walk was when (interim Town Administrator) Mike Farrell was still here.

Mr. Vachon said he recalled doing it because it was after work and before a meeting.

Mr. King said if they can schedule it for that they would probably have better attendance from this board.

Mr. Vachon said if they could get it for the afternoon it would be a lot easier for most of them.

Mr. Dickie said he would e-mail them and see if they can do it in the afternoon.

**Nobis Group Amended Proposal for Old Fire Station Well Locations-** Mr. Dickie said they sent a proposal out and Mr. Vachon said he e-mailed it to the board last Monday, April 1. He said he spoke with Planning Director Kyle Pimental quite a bit on the Tues. prior as he explained the e-mail had sent that morning to him and Mr. Dickie. He said there was a discussion back and forth



about not putting them both on Garfield St. and they want to put one there and one at this intersection to still keep it in the r-o-w and it's all explained in that e-mail. He said Kyle gave him some more insight when he called him with a lot of information. He said if the board read through that trailing e-mail, it was quite a bit of trailing between Mindy (Bubier, NHDES), Tim (Andrews, Nobis Group) and Kyle back and forth on that e-mail chain which is a summary of it. Mr. King said he didn't have an issue with the new locations as long as they're in areas that the Town has rights to put wells in and not on private property. He said if they want to move it over 6 ft. one way or the other right until the end that's fine.

Mr. Vachon said the other part that was discussed was the borings and the reason they go to 10 ft. is they have to go to 6 ft. so it's 2 lengths of pipe to get to 6 so they go to 10 ft. to use both lengths of pipe. He said they're 5 ft. sticks so they go down to 10 ft. to get the readings. He said they discussed this at the previous meeting and that's the reason they asked that question and that's the response they got. They have to go to 6 ft. and it's 2 sticks of pipe to get there so they're going to 10 ft. he said.

**Cross Walk Signs-** Mr. Dickie said he got a proposal in from Ed (Highway Dept. Supervisor Ed Brannan) and he put it in the board's packets. He said if they are okay with it, he is going to order 5 spring-loaded crosswalk signs that will in each intersection down in the center strip of the road. He said they are not the lighted signs so don't be confused with that it's just the spring-loaded signs that they put in there to slow the drivers down that there are crosswalks there.

Mr. King said he agreed that we need them and also asked if they are going to be able to touch up the paint on them as soon as possible by our crew or get Spots on Lots to do it.

Mr. Dickie said yes.

Mr. Vachon said Mr. Brannan texted him that he found a bunch but some of them weren't spring-loaded ones they're ridged mounted and he had a couple of those but the spring-loaded ones were pretty beat up and some of the signs were beat up and scuffed up from people running over them and he didn't know when the last time they bought these was. He said Mr. Brannan asked him about this and he told him to put it together and get it to Mr. Dickie so the board can discuss it. He said the feeling of the board was we need to get these up so if we need to order more, we have to order more, it is what it is.

Mrs. Titus said this is a really good start but she had talked to some people and found out how the school got the school crossing with the lights. She said it was a grant from the state and she didn't know if Ed has contacted anyone from the state to see if we can reapply for a grant and if the grant is still there so they can get the ones downtown.

Mr. Dickie said he reached out to Kyle Pimental and he is working with him to see what grants are available through the state for those crosswalk signs.

Mr. Vachon said one bit of information he gave him is it's a reimbursable grant for that and the Town would have to come up with all the funds to do that ahead of time and then be reimbursed just like the trucks just as a heads up. He said that's a Transportation Alternative



Program grant which is for sidewalks and pedestrian type stuff and they just did one in Somersworth that was \$750,000 per section of sidewalk with the RFB's and all that stuff included but that specific grant they have to pay for up front and then get reimbursed.

Mrs. Titus said she didn't remember paying that back.

Mr. Vachon said it's not paying it back you have to pay it up front and then get reimbursed just like the dump trucks where they had to come with \$590,000 to get reimbursed 80%.

Mrs. Morin said they probably budgeted it.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't know how the school handled it back when they did it but that would be something we'd have to figure out if we were going to try for one of those grants.

Mrs. Titus recalled it was a state grant and they didn't have to back it back or have to come up with any money.

Mr. Vachon said it may have been a different grant then or if it was a school or educational thing it's not going to cover the crosswalk down here at Crowley's and there may be a limit to what they can use. He said where that's a school walking route that may have been why the school could utilize that on Town property.

He said there may be limits to a school grant and this is something the Town has to go after. He said there are grants out there and it's pretty competitive but that's the way the grant is laid out that Kyle sent to them and he is looking into it more but you have to pay it out first and get reimbursed unfortunately. And that would include all new tip downs for ADA compliance and warning panels and everything else to put those in he said.

Mrs. Titus said she thought with the casualty we had the state might give a little bit of relief for us.

Mr. Vachon said he agreed if we can pitch our case. He asked the board if they were all set to let Mr. Dickie to order these within the \$5,000 threshold.

Consensus of the board was to allow Mr. Dickie to order the crosswalk signs.

#### **9). New Business:**

**Places Crossing Right-of-Way to Upper Lots-** Mr. King said he is off of that road and recused himself from this discussion and left the meeting.

Mr. Vachon said the board has in their packets a request from a property owner on Places Crossing that the Town deliver gravel for them to upgrade that road which is deeded rights of egress across private property and is not Town owned or Town maintained.

Mrs. Morin said that would be like us going up on Scruton Rd. where it's not Town, a Class VI road.

Mr. Staples said it's not Town property and it's not maintained.

Mr. Dickie said it's a right-of-way.

Mr. Vachon said Scruton Rd. is a class VI road unmaintained this is a completely private road.

Mr. Dickie said Mr. Pimental e-mailed him and he replied back no because the Town doesn't do any maintenance on private roads nor do we do any maintenance on a class VI road so his answer was no. He said then Mr. Vachon replied let's bring it to the board and get a board vote



to make it official so that's why he put in their packets to get it in front of them.

Mrs. Morin said it would be like Lincoln Log development we wouldn't take it into Blueberry Drive off Ten Rod Road.

Mr. Vachon repeated that it's a private road.

Mr. Staples said in the 3 ½ years he's been on the board, they've only done work on 1 private road and that's because the culvert was bad, it failed and was endangering the Town road and we charged them for manhours, equipment, materials, everything.

Mr. Vachon said and it was paid in full before we even touched it.

Mrs. Morin said she was not in favor of taking care of a private road.

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Morin) to authorize the Highway Dept. to truck gravel up to Places Crossing to repair the road failed 0-4.

**Storm Damage Update-** Mrs. Morin said she would like an update on any storm damage.

Mr. King rejoined the meeting.

Mr. Dickie said on the in-town and in the country it's the trees and most of the trees that were on lines or anything that was covered by the power (company). He said we do have a significant amount of brush and trees that we've got to get out there, chip them up and blow them off.

He said they even had that in-town here and other than the trees there is no other damage as far as what comes to the Town. He said they did have 1 truck with a cracked windshield where when trying to plow through a limb hit the windshield and cracked it but there was no major significant damage.

He said there were 4 or 5 residents that did get trees across their roofs or house and he talked to a resident today who came in to work with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector who was very fortunate that when a limb punctured their roof and came into their bedroom that no one was hurt thankfully. He said there was one on Rt. 11 just before you turn into well #6 where a tree came across that roof and up on the corner of Central St. and Rt. 11 there were 3 pine trees on their barn closer to Ridge Rd. That's what I'm aware of as far as residents he said.

Mr. Dickie said the Fire Dept. had about 50 calls that day predominantly for downed lines, telecommunication lines and a handful for trees across houses. He said that is what he is aware of at this point for damage and Asst. Fire Chief Royal "Rolly" Edgerly will be in tomorrow to give him more definite information and he will give the board a better update next week.

He said in talking with Mr. Brannan it's predominantly all trees nothing more than that and they're out there trimming them back.

Mrs. Titus asked if they knew how many people are out of power still or did everybody get their power back on.

Mr. Dickie said yes. He said they monitored that as well and he was monitoring working with Asst. Fire Chief Edgerly, Police Chief Scott Orlando and School Board Chairman Joel Chagnon to determine if we needed to open up a warming shelter but he told them to check Our Place in Time, Orchard Circle and Trotting Park and those 3 areas did have power. He said in talking with Chief Orlando the last time we did a warming shelter was because those 3 areas didn't have



power and those are the elderly that pretty much demand a lot of emergency attention but when he learned they had power he held back.

He said he looked at what the power company was able to achieve after the first 24 hours and they had reduced the out of power by at least half so he knew by the end of Friday night we would probably have more significant people back on power so we held back. But we were ready to pull the trigger he said.

Mr. Vachon said he was looking at the outage map and it doesn't show anybody in Farmington is out of power according to Eversource's outage map. He said it looks like all of Farmington is restored and maybe one residence where a line is off of a house but according to the outage map there's nothing in Farmington right now for Eversource.

Mr. King said he talked to Mr. Dickie a little bit about our emergency preparedness for these types of events like the incident at the wastewater treatment plant and they were potentially relying on our service to maintain that and we need to up the ante of our internal policies. He said they need to have our personnel fire up that generator every week and run it for 10 or 15 minutes and in any emergency alert that we get from PSNH, the state or the federal we should do testing the day before on all of our generators in-house and also the portable one we should have had ready for down well #6.

He said he knows that wasn't the current procedure but if well #6 goes down we need a generator which is up at the Highway garage and they should have test fired it, brought it down there to the site and had it ready to go for well #6 and also make sure they test fired it the day before if we had emergency notice and testing every week on our own accord so that we do a better job of being prepared.

He said we didn't have power out on well #6, he didn't have complete power down on Places Crossing, but he lost a leg and the sewer treatment plant lost a couple of legs. He said he talked to Mr. Dickie about that and he was down at the plant with Mr. Tiffany because he had concerns about there being 3 legs of power down at well #6 and there was which was good.

He said he wanted to check for himself because he lost it and they lost it there so he thought the whole strip had lost at least 1 leg of power but it was for 2 different reasons but we need to be better prepared and we have to implement a policy and get into the habit of being ready and testing on a weekly basis. Even that backup generator, it doesn't sound like we're testing that on any frequency. We need to fire that backup generator even if it's only once a month and before storms to make sure it's ready to go he said.

Mr. Dickie said he agreed because they learned the hard way and that's not a good way to learn because they lost some raw sewerage into the river that had they done those checks before potentially would have been prevented. He said he carried it a little bit further and had a JLC meeting today and went over emergencies and he challenged each dept. head to look within themselves and see what they need to do to stretch their preparedness like an elastic band all the way out until it almost snaps because when you wait and test it or you don't test it and any emergency occurs is when it's going to fail. But if you strain it before and test it to the extreme



you know you've done your due diligence and at least we can say we tested it to the extreme and we're that much better prepared for when it does happen he said.

Mr. Dickie said so there was some goodness that came out of that and he agreed with what Mr. King said as far as preparing for the mechanical side of it but he also wants to be prepared for the operations side of it where they would have pre-game warmup as everybody is on hand if we have to open up a warming shelter, what's the communication process if we do have a tower go out or if we lose cell towers because there were some times in there where the Police and Highway weren't able to communicate because Strafford County went down. He said there were those little things they learned with the after-action review with JLC's that they need to tighten and firm up so that we know what to do when those things do happen.

Mrs. Morin asked if that is part of our emergency management plan.

Mr. Dickie said they have that coming in to review it and make sure if it's not there we're going to do what we need to do ourselves to prepare for that.

Mr. King said to follow up on the generator down there which assumed is a 24 volt start, we have other pieces of equipment like the loader which is a 24 volt start so if we had a secondary failure we should set ourselves up to be able to down there with that piece of equipment with a set of cables whether they have to do a connection to the outside wall so they can jump off a 24 volt piece of equipment to those batteries as backup besides testing it. He said the big generator is a 24 volt start, so if we set ourselves up with a vehicle that's 24 volt, the loader, we can get down there if any of those 2 fail to start we can get it down there to get it started or some other means.

Mr. Dickie said the generator the Town got from the school because the school went out and got one from Oyster River to make theirs an auto start, we got the generator from the school that's sitting up there in cold storage. He said now that it doesn't have to be used at the school because they have their generator, he talked to Mr. Vachon a little bit about this but he didn't know if they designated where that generator was going to reside. He asked if it is the intent of this board for that to reside at #6 and that is the only other place they have plug-ins for it.

Mr. King said if they are currently storing it undercover to keep it from being beat up by the weather they don't have any cover down at well #6.

Mr. Staples said they wouldn't want anybody to vandalize it.

Mr. King said vandalism or mice getting into it and eating up the electrical system wires, he would say first they want to check with the school that they do not have a need for the emergency generator, he believes they don't now.

Mr. Dickie said they don't because they had to run it this storm. He said when he talked to Mr. Chagnon they were running on so that was another reason he held off a bit because he wasn't sure how that was going to work and how long it could run for fuel but they ran that one to power the high school.

Mr. King said right now it's undercover and it would be good to keep it undercover but he didn't know who is responsible but if the Water or Sewer Depts. are the only ones that would need it



they should be responsible. He said if the Highway garage is also utilizing that then maybe you could make them maintain it but if it would be solely the Water Dept. it needs to be under their care and control even if it's up here and they get a key to the building to get it unless they have a spot down at the wastewater treatment plant to put it but he didn't think they did.

Mr. Tiffany said no, it's good where it is now. He said that's a personnel maintenance done every year and if there's a storm that's coming, they can get it ready and get it down there so it's ready to go if they need it and then bring it back and put it undercover after the storm is over.

Mr. King said bringing it down there before an emergency event would make sense, keeping it there and testing it on a once a month basis and have the ability that if we get it down there we have something that could jump it if it didn't want to start.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't think Mr. Dickie meant to park it down there he thought wanted to know if that's where it was supposed to be utilized was for that pump station. He said he didn't sell it to him that way it was just do we want to designate it because every other building and everything else has a generator except for well #6.

Mr. Staples asked about well #5.

Mr. Tiffany said wells #4 and #5 have a generator inside for it. He said Campbell Commons has one and that one ran good before the storm.

Mr. Staples asked about the Public Safety Building.

Mr. Vachon said he went through the whole list with Mr. Dickie and everything has got one except for well #6.

Mr. Dickie said they have a brand new one and this building has a generator that kicks on every week.

Mr. King said at the Town Hall it sounded like we may need some re-wiring on that generator to better support that building.

Mr. Dickie said they're checking that this Thursday.

Mr. King said at the Town Meeting last year it looked it needed some attention to how we routed...

Mr. Dickie said it needs a lot of attention because the transfer switches are all corroded and rusted.

**Dick Dame Lane-** Mr. Staples said Dick Dame Lane is going to need more attention between 80 and 99, that chunk of pavement that's coming up, the gravel was holding up good but with all the rain and snow the plowing has ripped that back open and it's real tight to navigate through.

**Trotting Park-** He said again this storm like it has all year the dirt road at Trotting Park seems to be neglected. He said when he arrived there at 5:30 on Thurs. not one time in this whole storm had a DPW truck plowed that road.

Mr. Dickie said they were trying to stay off the dirt roads as much as they could and they didn't plow his road until late because the roads were soft and if they plow it, they grade it. He said they're taking the dirt right off and putting it in but that was Mr. Brannan's philosophy and if they want him to do something different, he could tell him to do different.



Mr. Staples said there are residents on that road who need assistance and one's nurse was unable to occupy that road to get down to him. He said if the roads are soft, you pick the plows up-we can't be leaving roads unplowed for the duration of the storm. He asked if he called EMS would they wait for a plow or are they going to lug him out.

Mr. Dickie said that isn't the only thing-they did have some trucks down, some hydraulic lines blown and lot of roads with downed trees trying to wait for us to get out there and clear them. He said he pulled Ed and John in because of the generator and there were a lot of interruptions but he was not using that as an excuse.

Mr. Staples said when he got to that road, he was rushed by residents who were very upset so he reached out to Ed and it was clearly an accident that it was missed because he was dumbfounded that nobody had touched it yet. He said he got permission from Ed to blow a hole through so they can at least get out and they came in behind him, cleaned it up and fixed it.

Mr. Dickie said he would deal with it.

Mr. Vachon said when there's that much snow they have to plow them and if it was only a couple inches of snow he could understand not plowing the road.

Mrs. Morin said it wasn't super late, she couldn't remember what time they came through but it was in the afternoon time.

Mr. Vachon said it takes a lot longer to do it when you have to float the blade and feel your truck as you're going to see if its biting or not but it can be done even with a heavy truck. It just takes a lot more time because you have to go a lot slower he said.

**Gear Box-** Mr. Dickie said the gear box for the band screen that separates the rags from the waste water is down and it's been rebuilt once or twice already.

Mr. Tiffany said it's been rebuilt once and that he and John rebuilt it 10 years ago roughly and it's been running since. He said it runs 24 hours a day and their water is blowing right out of the back of it and right before the storm that went off on high torque overload and it's been slowly going over time.

Mr. King asked what it is connected to for a moto and if it's variable speed or fixed speed.

Mr. Tiffany said it's the 3 phase one he told him about that got wired backwards.

Mr. King asked if somebody has tested it and they are probably going to have to test that also to make sure that's not...

Mr. Tiffany said he could have it tested when they put the new one on.

Mr. King said after talking to Mr. Tiffany he agreed they should get a new gear box but they also want to test that motor to make sure because that could be the over current. He said they could have 2 problems, they have the over current and it could be the motor, it could be the gear box is eating itself plus they have water going through it.

Mr. Tiffany said water is going through regardless because it's blowing through the back seals. He said he only has a chute going down into the F1 trough to keep it off the level transducers in the front that tell the level of the waste.

Mr. Staples asked for the price on the new one.



Mr. Vachon said \$9,102.57 and it's 6 weeks out.

Mr. Staples asked for the cost to rebuild.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't have that quote.

Mrs. Morin said and they've already rebuilt it once.

Mr. Tiffany said they already rebuilt it once and he has a list of all the parts for it and John has to go through it so it's going to be a while before they get the prices for all the parts. He said if it's anything like the last gear box the conveyor they put on was more expensive to rebuild than it was to buy a whole new box. There's a 6-week lead time on the box but who knows what the lead time is on each part he said.

Mr. King asked if they would be able to limp that for 6 weeks.

Mr. Tiffany said he would have to and he wondered if it went off on the high torque because of the power outage because when it went down to 1 leg that's when the band screen went and then it went on high torque. He said he was going to try it tomorrow and see if he could get it going again and worst case scenario it's on manual bar rack right now it's a quick fix because rags still get through the bar racks and it will be in all the pumps and motors they have and they have to stick their hands inside the pumps every Friday to pull the rags out or else they'll cavitate.

Mr. Dickie said which he has a concern about because there is also other stuff mixed in there not just rags.

Mr. Tiffany said they have safety gloves and stuff but it's not a good environment.

Mr. King said he thought they need to get the new gear box on order and try to limp it. He said it may have been because it lost a leg and that's why it went torque like he said.

Mr. Vachon said when Mr. Dickie called him on this that morning, he said it's 6 weeks out-if we could have it tomorrow if he told him to go ahead and buy it and told him it's \$5,000 he could sell that to the board instead of 6 weeks out-bring it up tonight 24 hours on 6 weeks isn't going to matter. He said if it was something he could have had because it was in Nashua, they could have had it today and installed it tomorrow, it isn't proper procedure but he told him to do it. But 6 weeks out I told him to bring it to us and discuss it he said.

Mr. King said to replace it with a brand new one that's never been touched, take the other one if and when they have time, take it apart and see what it costs, what it needs to rebuild it and put it on the shelf as a backup to the new one and then they would have a spare if they ever need to touch that one.

Mr. Vachon said that was the exact same discussion he had with Mr. Dickie-get that old one rebuilt and put it on the shelf.

Mr. Tiffany asked if they wanted him to try to take this out of the budget or would they want to take it out of the depreciation funds because it's a depreciated piece of equipment.

Mr. Vachon said to do that it would have to go to the Trustees of the Trust Funds because the Trustees are in control of all that.



Mr. King said they would just be \$9,100 more over budget until they change the sewer rate.

**Motion:** (Morin, second Titus) that we purchase the gear box from Ovivo for \$9,102.57;

**Discussion:** Mr. Staples asked Mr. Tiffany if he has some place in his budget that he could get it out of.

Mr. Tiffany said yes.

Mr. Vachon said he should have something in pump maintenance or in one of those lines.

Mr. Tiffany said they put \$40,000 in the general maintenance line and he would just have to squeeze that budget line in case he has another emergency come down the line.

Mr. Staples said he thought they put \$40,000 in that line to replace something big.

Mr. King asked what does it matter that whole budget is over budget by \$300,000-\$400,00.

Mr. Tiffany said \$10,000 is big.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

#### **10). Town Administrator's Business:**

**Spending Limit-** Mr. Dickie said based on everything going up, the cost of materials and everything is going up and his spending limit is \$5,000. He said he typically "radio out" to the board when things are going to be coming and asked if there was any issue if they would up him to \$10,000 if he calls them. He said he just sees with the costs doubling, its minimal what he can approve and some of its just over but he's just asking.

Mr. King said he was not opposed to having 2 thresholds-up to \$5,000 on his own and up to \$10,000 with the approval of the Chair.

Mr. Dickie said okay and it would make it easier that he could call somebody as long as someone's on board.

Mr. King said that he was okay with that vs. moving it to \$10,000 blind and he didn't know if he would be in favor of that. He said if it's a necessity and the Chair approves it, the Chair speaks for them and he's going to know if they're going to take issue with it just by working with us.

Mrs. Morin asked for a "for instance" when that's been an issue.

Mr. Dickie said he's had a couple like this gear box and if he could have felt more comfortable with it, he would have told him probably a week ago to go ahead and order it and we'd be 1 week into it already but it's \$10,000 and he can't. He said he talked with Mr. Vachon about it today it's a 6-week lead time let's just bring it to the board.

He said obviously they approved it but he typically would radio out to Mr. Vachon, to her or Mr. King and make sure there's a comfort level and if they're not sure he's not going to approve it but if it was okay he would go with it based on communicating out like he always does anyway. Once that comfort level is there, I would approve it and we could talk about what we had to do at the meeting he said.

Mrs. Morin asked if that would follow policy or if they were going to change the policy.

Mr. Dickie said it would be exempting the policy above and beyond but as long as they approve it when he leaves they can bring it back to the policy, the policy is \$5,000.



Mrs. Morin said she was wondering if they have to adjust the policy or they'll have to waive the policy.

Mr. King and Mr. Staples said they would adjust the policy.

Mrs. Morin said because then they would have to waive the policy every time.

Mr. King said to do it now and then bring the policy back to them and then they'll formally amend it for the record.

**Motion:** (King, second Titus) to authorize the Chairman to approve up to \$10,000 with discussions with the Town Administrator on expenditures passed 4-0-1 (Vachon abstained).

Mr. Vachon said abstained because he will be a deciding party on that and knowing that he could have authorized today but anything over \$5,000 the board has to approve so for future reference they can deal with that and asked Mr. Dickie to just give him a call now that they've been authorized.

**Ms-232-** Mr. Dickie asked if they signed the MS-232 (Report of Appropriations Actually Voted).

Mr. Vachon said yes it's all set.

**Committee Member Application-** Mr. Vachon said they have an application for the Conservation Commission and then noted that he must be re-upping because he is already on it. He said James Pollard is already a seated member on the Con Com. He said Mr. Pollard put 2 years but asked didn't they just figure out it has to be 3 years.

Mr. Dickie said he hadn't seen his application.

Mr. Vachon said his term must be up so he is looking to get re-seated on the Con Com.

Mr. Dickie said he would contact him tomorrow and let him know and asked if the board wanted to approve him for 3 years.

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Titus) to approve James Pollard for a 3 year seat on the Conservation Commission;

**Amendment:** by Mr. King: up to 3 years in case that seat is not available he can fill in any seat. Mr. Vachon said there are plenty of seats available and he believes they are all 3-year seats as that's what Mr. Dickie found when he looked into it for the last couple of applications for the Con Com.

Mr. King withdrew his amendment.

Mr. Vachon said he didn't think Jim would have a problem with that he's pretty involved with the Con Com.

**Vote:** the motion passed 5-0.

**Resignation-** Mr. Vachon said they also received a resignation letter from a Fire Fighter, Sierra Rodenhuis has left the Fire Dept.

**Motion:** (Vachon, second Staples) to accept her resignation letter passed 5-0.

**11). Next Meeting:** Monday, April 15, 2024

**12). Adjournment:**

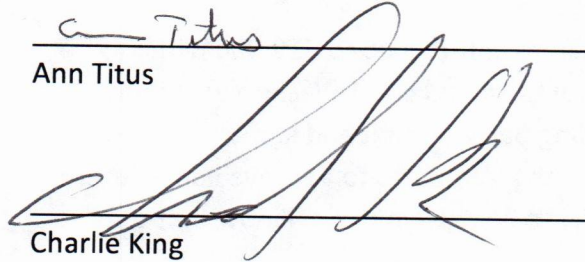
**Motion:** (Staples, second Titus) to adjourn the meeting passed 5-0 at 7:41 p.m.

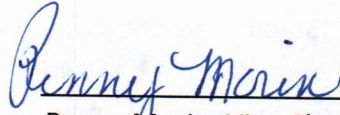



Kathleen Magoon, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerry Vachon, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Titus

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charlie King

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Penny Morin, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas Staples