

**TOWN OF WATERVILLE VALLEY  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** December 13, 2017

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mike Aronson, Margaret Turner and Bill Larsen.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mark Decoteau, Jim Mayhew, Rob Burhoe, Jr., Jamie Emery and Dan Tinkham of Emery & Garrett Groundwater, Joe Ducharme of CMA Engineers and Sharon Charron.

**1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm**

**2. Discussion with Engineers Regarding Well #3**

Joe Ducharme of CMA Engineers describes the present issues and reviews the testing and repairs done previously. These include pressure tests, check valve replacements and bacteriological tests. Mechanically, the well is sound. It has been determined via the testing that there is no direct pathway for the contamination. Indirect pathways and sources are now being investigated for entering well #3.

These possibly sources include the following:

- Monitoring Wells - There are 4 monitoring wells in the vicinity of well #3. Upon inspection, it was determined that the monitoring well located 25' from well #3 showed signs of collapse somewhat, as did the other monitoring wells. This could provide, under flood conditions, a pathway for surface water to enter the interval of the monitoring well which intercepts the water aquifer below, which feeds wells #3.
- The Water Transmission Trench line - The gravel pack in the trench around the pipe provides a transmissive pathway for water (and bacteria) to migrate from the river to the Well itself. It was noted that the pipe itself is intact per the pressure test on the line.
- The Laterals – Though unlikely, it is conceivable that burrowing animals have reached into or very close to the laterals of the well during the extreme drought of 2016. The laterals need to be inspected and evaluated.
- Erosion of the Riverbank – In the last 18 months there has been extreme drought and flood activity and it's conceivable that the riverbank has modified/eroded such that more surface water flow could enter the transmission pipeline trench.

The possible solutions include the following, listed in sequence to the above:

- Excavate around 4 of 5 monitoring wells and install a bentonite seal around each well and a concrete pad at the surface to eliminate potential pathways for surface water to enter the aquifer. The 5<sup>th</sup> monitoring well, closest to the well #3, will be removed and filled.

- Conduct a TV camera survey of each lateral to determine if there is any blockage, debris or animal waste visibly present in the laterals.
- Install shallow piezometers along the distribution trench to determine if bacteria have entered trench materials. Install a series of concrete and/or bentonite plugs in the trench to prevent lateral movement of surface water towards the well.
- Excavate around the well to a 6' depth and install a synthetic liner 20' out around the outside perimeter to prevent vertical infiltration of shallow water.
- Divert the walking path that goes right by the well to a minimum of 50' away. Dog waste on the ground can enter the groundwater via the holes from burrowing animals during flood/high water events. It was noted that the other well sites all have more protection surrounding them.

EGGI Strongly recommended the relocation of the walking path and the BOS agreed this was critical and believed people would be in agreement. By completing these activities, it is thought this might eliminate the Ecoli and greatly reduce the Total Coliform (TC). EGGI believes that with the Ecoli eliminated and TC lowered (to less than 5 colonies per 100ml), that DES would allow the well #3 to be connected to the new treatment facility for well #4. Bill Larsen asked if Ecoli was still present, would DES allow the connection to the treatment facility and the contact time in the tank to treat the Ecoli, and EGGI stated they believed DES would be reluctant to allow to connection if Ecoli was still present. Joe Ducharme explained that currently well #3 water is pumped through well house #2 where it is injected with chlorine prior to being pumped into the water system. There is not enough contact time with this treatment method in the line to adequately treat and eliminate Ecoli bacteria. The plan would be to present the details of this work to DES for approval. Discussion followed concerning the required DES testing and the location of where the water tested is drawn from in the system.

Mark proposes doing all 5 of the recommendations discussed, with the approved funding from Town Meeting, the report back to DES with testing results. At that same time request that DES allows the town to connect well #3 water line to the new treatment center. Bill Larsen proposes that the town doesn't offer to do the connection in itself, in the event the work proposed resolves the Ecoli completely. The overall goal is to remove the Ecoli completely. EGGI reminded the BOS that the town will need DES approval prior to any excavation work being performed.

EGGI asked if the town could contribute with equipment for the excavation work and Jim Mayhew replied that the town's equipment wouldn't be adequate. A contractor who the town has confidence in, has worked with before, and has the equipment to perform the work would be sought to review the work and get estimates of costs. It was asked if dyes, or other markers, could be used to track the flow of water. It was viewed unlikely that DES would allow for dye tracing, and the cost of the testing is very high.

If all of the work is done, and EColi is still present, the next step would be to install a new gravel pack well at the same location and abandon the laterals chambers of the current well. EGGI commented the Waterville Valley has dug a large amount (119 to be exact) of test wells over the years, likely more than any other town in the state. EGGI added that this well site is very important, as there is water present in it, but it just needs to be extracted without EColi bacteria.

Mark will proceed with drafting a warrant article for 2018 Town Meeting and ask DES for approval pending the Town Meeting approval. EGGI will supply Jim Mayhew with the details of the work for contractors to review.

Mike Aronson excuses himself from the meeting as he was not feeling well.

The workshop adjourns at 2:50pm, in advance of the regular Board of Selectmen meeting and reconvenes the workshop at 3:50pm.

### **3. Other Business**

Mark distributes the CIP plan, which reflects updates after meetings and conversations with department heads and the CIP committee, and reviews each section with the Selectmen. Areas reviewed included the following subjects: Highways/Roads, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Water System, Parks & Recreation, Town Vehicles, and Buildings & Grounds. Discussion followed regarding the Town Entrance project and the need to communicate to voters that this is the start of a multi-year plan. The BOS would like to discuss more of the project and future work with the Town Core Group at the BOS meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Funding sources for CIP projects was also discussed and varies year to year. Funding sources include the use of fund balance, capital reserve accounts, cash, and bonding.

Mark informed the board that there are statutory requirements for creating a Tax Increment Finance Zone and it also requires the approval of Town Meeting. The TIFZ would lock in a tax rate for a period of 5 years and would incentivize property owners to invest in upgrades to their properties. Mark adds that the zone doesn't need to be contiguous, and there can be more than one zone. The Village Commercial zone, which is mostly the center of town, was the area likely to be selected. Other areas, such as the WV Golf Course, were also mentioned. By creating this TIFZ, it would assist property owners in financing upgrades as their property taxes would be locked for a period of time. It needs to be communicated to the voters that this is way for the town to support property improvements which will improve the overall look and aesthetics of the town as a whole. Mark will begin work on drafting the warrant article.

### **4. Adjourn**

Bill Larsen motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:08pm.

Margaret Turner: 2nds.

Motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Charron

Town Clerk/Town Office Assistant