

Hooksett Sewer Commission
March 15, 2011
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM. Present were Chairman Sidney Baines, Commissioner Raymond Robb, Commissioner Roger Bergeron, and Superintendent Bruce Kudrick. Carol Granfield, Hooksett Town Manager, and Dan Pike, Hooksett Emergency Management Director also attended.

APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES FROM MARCH 1, 2011

Commissioner Bergeron made a motion to accept the March 1, 2011 meeting minutes as read. Commission Robb seconded. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED AND SIGNED MANIFESTS

READ CORRESPONDENCE

FINANCIAL REPORT – There was no financial report.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

TRUCK BIDS – Supt. Kudrick told the Commissioners that bids for the truck have come in, but due to the emergencies at the plant, he has not had time to review them thoroughly.

SCHEDULED APPOINTMENTS

PLANT SHUT DOWN -Paul Heitzler, Ken Kessler, Franz Vale, DES - Mr. Heitzler asked for this meeting to discuss what has happened to the plant, and what will be done in the future to prevent it from happening again. Mr. Heitzler stated that DES knows about Thursday clean up at Hampton, but would like to know what else is being done regarding this problem. He informed the Commission that Chris Pope from DES has gone down to the affected areas of Massachusetts to meet with people there and to answer concerns and questions. The disks have been tested and are not biologically contaminated.

Chairman Baines stated that it is still not known why the system failed. Krueger has not given any answers at this point in time. Supt. Kudrick stated that a screen system has been installed with a top and sides that will prevent anything else from entering the river. The alarm system is currently online but will need more work. It is also not known why the screens became plugged up. A similar problem happened in November (11/22/10), and Supt. Kudrick was told it was because there was not enough waste going through the system at that time. On 3/3/11, there was another problem with the system, and media was lost within it, but none made it to the river. Krueger told them to take the system off automatic. Supt. Kudrick did that, but then had the major problems. Krueger has stated that there haven't been any such problems before in any of their systems in Europe, so they are not sure what is happening now.

Chairman Baines asked about the alarm system, and what is being planned for the future. Supt. Kudrick told him that an alarm will be installed to go off if anything rises 6 inches or more in the tanks. There will also be other alarms in the flocculation tanks and others so that the system in not depending on just one alarm.

Chairman Baines asked Supt. Kudrick if the system in now back running correctly. Supt. Kudrick said BODs were alright, but because the nitrogen tanks are not back on due to Kruger's instructions, the ammonia levels are still a problem. The Ph levels are violating, but Supt. Kudrick will not do anything to change the system until Krueger comes up with a solution to the problems the plant is experiencing.

The Commissioner for DES has asked if the media on the ground will wash out with any heavy rain or snowmelt. Supt. Kudrick told the members from DES it would not get into the river again with the precautions that are now in place. With each successive snow melt, a vac truck will be called in to clean any affected areas.

Chairman Baines stated that Supt. Kudrick has done a stellar job in this situation. He took action immediately, and started to set up clean-up efforts very quickly.

Mr. Heitzler told the Board that DES feels that Supt. Kudrick and the Commission have done what was needed to do. Now, can DES do anything? Chairman Baines wanted to make DES aware that the Commission is unsure who is going to pay for the cleanup. Kruger is not making themselves available, and the insurance company is being vague. The Commission wanted to get the whole thing cleaned first and figured that how it would be paid for was secondary. Supt. Kudrick did ask that DES double check any solution Krueger comes up with to ensure that their solution prevents this from happening again. This is all new technology, and although Hooksett is the first, this system may be used by other plants, and the process should be thoroughly vetted before anyone else should use it.

Mr. Heitzler told them EPA is talking about fines, but nothing is definite. Supt. Kudrick asked DES about river clean up, and if it would be worth using an expensive service such as booms to clean it up. DES did not think that booms would really work in this situation. The consensus was that we should concentrate on the beaches only, because that is where the majority of media would end up.

Ken Kessler asked what Graves Engineering is doing in regards to the problem. Although not likely part of the current difficulties, the problems the plant is having with the hydraulics need to be reviewed. Mr. Vail will be looking at Don Graves' calculations. He suggested that a StanTec Hydraulic Engineer review the plans to look for any problems and/or solutions. Neither he, nor DES is impressed with Krueger in regards to the lack of communication. Why was the company chosen? Chairman Baines explained that they were the only ones with a viable option for what was needed for the plant. The members of DES stated again that it would be more comfortable if Graves did turn over their hydraulic plans to StanTec for review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 1:10 PM Commissioner Bergeron motioned to go into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3II (a) for a personnel issue. All in favor. At 1:30 the Commissioners came out of non public session. No decisions were made.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bergeron motioned to adjourn at 1:35 PM, Commissioner Robb seconded. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Commissioner Raymond Robb
Clerk