

Moose Hill Water Commission Meeting Minutes

Minutes of October 8, 2013

Members present: Kurt Parliment, Carl Wicklund, Jr.

Members absent: Harry Brooks

In Attendance: Mr. Paul Gagner, Charlton Water Commissioner,
Greg Buteau

Meeting called to order at 6:00PM

New Business

Charlton Water Dept.

Mr. Parliment said from reading some of the articles in the paper, the Town of Charlton is in need of water. He noted that Mike Knox from the CVRW had been before the Board talking about the need for another water supply in Leicester. The Town of Spencer was also invited to this meeting, but has not responded and he felt Spencer was an important part of this equation.

Mr. Paul Gagner asked this wasn't just with Leicester; it will be in conjunction with Spencer.

Mr. Parliment said yes. This Commission has done a lot of things with DEP on finding out information regarding a surface water supply such as Moose Hill. Shaw Pond, which is a reservoir located in Leicester, but owned by Spencer, empties into Moose Hill.

Mr. Gagner said had lived in Leicester for 12 years and never heard of Moose Hill.

Mr. Parliment said this Commission has been working on trying to get the water out of the reservoir and it has become overwhelming for one Town to get involved in that process.

What the Commissioner's thoughts were was how one brings in more bodies that are in need of this water.

What are the Town of Charlton's thoughts, as far as, their ability on building out and whatever else is going on?

Mr. Gagner said Charlton is in a very difficult position right now. Basically 6 to 7 years ago, and he's been on the Charlton Water Commission for 7-years, the Town has been looking for water within the Town's boundaries, which didn't work out.

He explained that they needed at least 12-acres of land in order to dig a well, with something like 200-feet around it.

There are 12 acres in different parts of the Town, but then there are the piping aspects on how to get them together and each well needs to be pump 100-gallons a minute to be effective. So if there are 4 to 5 wells in the same area and you start drawing from them, the ones that are 100-gallons are now only 20-gallons because they would be drawing from the same underground reservoir. So, the Town gave up on that.

In the meantime, Southbridge has 6 reservoirs and is using only 2 or 3 right now. So they have a lot of water and they received permission from the DEP to be allowed to draw 2-million gallons a day.

Mr Gagner continued. Before Charlton considered Southbridge, first the water was supposed to come from Oxford around 12 years ago. They had put the piping in at the Oxford end, but it ended up not working out because, Oxford had some problems with the condition of some of their own pipes and Oxford was hoping that if Charlton made an agreement, their pipes would get upgraded and the government would chip in, but it didn't work out that way.

Charlton was also looking for water towards Buffinville for surface water and gravel wells, but that posed numerous problems. One being Charlton didn't own it and another was it's in the flood zone and going that route would not have been cost effective.

Then Southbridge came around and an agreement was signed for 100,000-gallons a day. Southbridge was already supplying water to parts of Charlton along Stafford Street and basically to the Mass Pike Stations heading east at 5-East and the one heading west at 6-West. Which was where the oil spill was years ago that Mobil/Exxon still has responsibility for.

So, Southbridge supplies both the Turnpike Stations with water and a few residents along Stafford Street and it's been that way for many, many years. But now Charlton is trying to expand the system and Mobil/Exxon, at no expense to the homeowners in Charlton, put a few pipes down the north side of Route 20 and expanded the system quite a bit, but, they are still limited to 100,000-gallons a day from Southbridge.

In the meantime, they have put in a lot of extra pipes because of contaminated areas. Some areas were contaminated from the Norton's Service Station, some from the Town Barn and some from the original Mobil spill and they are all traveling south/southeast towards Oxford.

Another problem with buying water from Oxford and it wasn't insurmountable, but wasn't favorable with DEP was, Oxford is in a different watershed. Charlton is in two watersheds, which splits about right down the middle of the Town.

Mr. Parliment asked which watershed Charlton was in. Mr. Gagner said he believes one side is the French River and the other is the Quinaboag River. So, DEP was not looking at Charlton buying water from Oxford favorably. They do currently have a three-year contract with Southbridge for the 100,000-gallons a day.

Mr. Parliment asked if they were at the end of the three-year contract. Mr. Gagner said they are 2-years into that now and in the meantime, they are supposed to try and get a 5-year contract with Southbridge.

Mr. Gagner continued. Mobile has decided to give Charlton 6-miles of piping around Bay Path School, down to the Middle School and down to the Heritage School. Mobile will be paying for everything because the contamination is heading in that direction and Mobil just wants to be finished with it and have Charlton done with.

That will be about a \$12-million dollar project, with half going just for towards the repaving and Mobil is willing to do that.

One of Southbridge's concerns was that the water is not going to be fresh. Apparently, water from Southbridge to Charlton and samples that are taken at the end, show the chlorine and the other treatment had dissipated. He wasn't completely sure, but thought there was a deal with Exxon to go from 12-inch pipes down to 6-inch pipes, just so there would be fewer gallons to turnover in a day.

Mr Gagner explained that there is a holding tank on Route 20 across from CVS, holding 75,000-gallons, which has been drained and disinfected 2 or 3 times already, because there wasn't that turnover of Southbridge's water and they want that water to turnover at least every 3 to 4 days. Charlton draws from that tank is around 20 to 30,000-gallons a day and that's not cutting it for them.

Mr. Parliment asked if there was a way to stop this crude or will it just keep traveling.

Mr. Gagner said it's getting less as time goes by, but he felt it will just keep going, it's already in the ground and will stay in the ground. It's not going to evaporate or anything like that and the spill happened in the 1980s, so it's already been 30-years after the fact.

He noted that along Knockshead Road and Worcester Road, there's more contamination there now then 5 or 6 years ago and that says it's moving that way.

He felt it is really nice of Mobil to give Charlton all these pipes, but they won't do it unless Charlton has a signed agreement with Southbridge for a 5-year contract and Southbridge just won't do it. He can't really say the Town of Southbridge; he has to lay the blame particularly on Southbridge's Town Manager.

There was a meeting back in June, which he was unable to attend, but there were two other representatives from Charlton present; one from the water/sewer commission and Charlton's Town Administrator. From what he was told, Southbridge's Town Manager heard something he didn't like and got up and stomped out of the room and has refused to talk with anyone from Charlton since.

Charlton had a Water/Sewer Commissioner's Meeting last night and the Water Superintendent reported that there had not been any communication from Southbridge at all. He said he heard through the grapevine that the Southbridge's Town Manager would give Charlton Water/Sewer Dept. some of Southbridge's demands around the first week in October.

Mr. Gagner continued. Their assumption was that Southbridge maybe looking for privilege fees or betterment fees, something on that line, but noted that Charlton didn't really know what Southbridge was looking for.

In the middle of all this is Bay Path School. Southbridge promised to get water to Bay Path and the school needs to know by the December 31, 2013. If they don't get water and a signed agreement by that date, they have to dig more wells and also put in storage for fire suppression at a cost of \$250,000+.

Charlton has put some pressure on their State Representatives, Steve Brewer and Peter Durant, as well as, State Senator, Mike Moore to help talk with Southbridge and as far as he knows, they have gotten nowhere. December 31st is coming fast and they are now halfway through the month of October and wasting time and this is very valuable time to Bay Path.

Southbridge wants to see the water go through the pipes in the center of Charlton that go up to Bay Path, but Charlton's question to Southbridge was why do that. First off, that will dead-end the pipe and dead-ends are frowned upon.

Charlton does not want to have it dead-ended, because Exxon/Mobil will be flipping the bill and not just for Bay Path, but for the other 2 schools further down the street and a lot of potential customers could be added in as well, approximately 180 households.

Mr. Parliment asked if Charlton had any future planned developments.

Mr. Gagner said not really because the Town can't supply the water. They did put on a \$3.5 million dollar expansion on the sewer plant around 2 to 3 years ago, so than can supply sewer hook ups. The sewer plant now has a capacity for 450,000-gallons a day and they are currently running around 220,000-gallons a day.

Right now, their pressure is coming from Bay Path School and trying to accommodate them, as well as getting the other 2 schools water. MBTEs were found in the schools water system, which are below the legal levels, but DEP wants something done about that, because it's rising.

Their current need is to get water to the schools and one man seems to be standing in the way of this happening. So, as the months passed by, they went back to the drawing board and went to plan B, but there wasn't a plan B, until the Moose Hill Commission contacted them. Right now, there is no love loss dealing with Southbridge, because they have been so difficult to deal with.

Mr. Wicklund said Moose Hill is a good reservoir with a large capacity, but it doesn't have the infrastructure to get it anywhere.

Mr. Gagner said Charlton had the same problem where the water/sewer system didn't have a water budget. There was nothing coming in and it all had to be done through betterments. He also wasn't sure where Leicester's closest water pipe would be to Charlton.

Mr. Wicklund said in order to have a better understanding and discussion; this Commission would need to know where Charlton's closest pipes to the Leicester line are located.

Mr. Gagner said the pipes come up Stafford Street, passes Cook's Farm to North Side Road, right across from Rider Tavern and ends there, then heads back to Route 20.

If there is water in Rochdale that would probably be the least number of miles and the only bridge, he can think of, is the one on Stafford Street that goes over the Mass Pike.

Mr. Parliment said one of the problems pumping water from Moose Hill and not knowing where the pipes are located, was crossing over into another river basin.

Moose Hill is in the Quaboag River Basin and Rochdale/Cherry Valley is in the French River Basin.

Mr. Gagner said DEP may overlook that if there is no other solution and they do like Towns regionalizing. Although, they wouldn't get involved with Southbridge and Charlton and told everyone to work it out.

Unless Charlton gets that 5-year agreement from Southbridge, Mobil won't proceed. Everything has already been engineered and Mobil was getting ready for it to go out for bid. It would have been started this summer, with two crews working to get it ready for school next September, now that's not happening.

If Charlton did make any kind of agreement with Moose Hill, it's even further down the road, we're talking years.

Mr. Wicklund noted that this would be for a long-term solution.

Mr. Parliment asked if Charlton talked with Spencer at all. Mr. Gagner said no, he hadn't personally and if Charlton did, it wasn't recently.

At one time, around 3 or 4 years ago and before signing the 100,000-gallons with Southbridge, people before him, met with Spencer, as well as Oxford, but he didn't know what happened with those discussions.

Mr. Parliment said Spencer is the other piece to this. We would need to talk with them to see if something different could be done to bring water to Charlton. Spencer's Shaw Pond and Moose Hill are connected because Shaw Pond runs into Moose Hill and Moose Hill runs into Sudgen Reservoir.

Mr. Wicklund said he wasn't sure if this had anything to do with the fall draught, but he's noticed the water flow from Shaw Pond's tributary stream to Moose Hill has diminished quite a lot.

Mr. Parliment said what Leicester was looking at number wise, has drastically changed through the many years this has been going on, even in the last 10 years. So looking into regionalizing makes a lot more sense.

Mr. Wicklund said Shaw Pond already has a pumping station and that the Town of Spencer was not using the reserve portion of Shaw Pond. He noted the logistics from the pumping station to Moose Hill was probably a mile to a mile and a half.

Mr. Gagner asked where the water was treated and distributed.

Mr. Wicklund said that pumping station isn't being used right now, but assumed when they pumped from Shaw Pond; it went through a purification system somewhere else in Spencer.

Mr. Parliment said he met with Spencer officials a while ago and there wasn't much accomplished. He also talked with Paxton officials, who were also in need of water at one time, but not much was accomplished there either.

Mr. Gagner asked if there was monthly testing being done for DEP.

Mr. Parliment said not currently and he could go on and on with the history of this. The big issue was the reservoir losing its Class A status because it was not used within the time frame it needed to be used. So now the Town has to go back through the entire process again to get it back to its Class A status.

Mr. Parliment noted that he met with DEP and got a list of what needs to be done before getting to the next step. It's not undoable, it's just with the two Town Water Districts, although they need water, can't commit until it's assured the reservoir will get reclassified.

Mr. Gagner said hopefully in another week or so, they will be able have the demands from Southbridge and know what they are looking for.

Mr. Parliment said it sounds like Charlton will be up against Southbridge forever, even if they change their minds, i.e. the use of the water, chlorination, cleaning of the storage tank.

Mr. Gagner said there will always be some kind of problem. It's like what comes first, the cart or the horse. You put something on line and there aren't enough of customers, but if you don't put it on line, you aren't going to get the customers. He felt eventually within a year or two people would tie in.

People don't test their own water and when they do, they find it has a lot of junk in it and then they start looking for municipal water, but people are reluctant to jump onboard because of costs. Such as with Charlton, Southbridge had a \$2000 fee, in addition to all the extra-added costs associated.

Mr. Parliment said the people in Charlton who have the contaminated wells, how are they getting water?

Mr. Gagner said Mobil/Exxon is providing them with bottled water and have been for around 15-years now. Not everyone is getting bottled water yet, but the contamination is getting to the point where DEP is going to make Mobil/Exxon give everyone bottled water.

Mr. Parliment asked if Mobil/Exxon has to provide the bottled water for washing, etc.

Mr. Gagner said no, he didn't think there were problems with that now, which is why Mobil is stepping in to do the 6 miles of piping before it gets to that point.

There are still quite a few families who are receiving the bottled water who do not live near where the pipes are planned to go. So they will be receiving the bottled water for a very long time, because there are no plans right now to put any piping in those areas.

The way Charlton is set up, they could tie into Oxford, Spencer or Leicester without too much difficulty. Except with Spencer, there's around 6 to 7 miles of piping and that can get very expensive. Especially the road paving, that will take half of the total amount.

The deal Mobil/Exxon has right now, laying 6 miles of pipe, is almost \$2M a mile.

What happened to Charlton was the pipes would go into the ground when they bought the water around 10-12 years ago to the tune of \$7-8M. The Town has not started paying any of that back yet, but a letter will be sent to some residents regarding betterments on October 15th. This will bring in around \$10M and there are only 217-residents receiving letters.

There was a deal made with the residents along Northside Road, where Mobil had already put in pipes, and those residents did not get betterments because Mobil paid for that piping and the \$2000 fee to Southbridge. But with the 6-miles proposed now, where there is no such deal with Mobil, there has to be betterments to the people who are getting the water, even though Charlton is not splitting the bill for it. This way Charlton can provide this \$10M for 400 residents rather than 200 residents and make it somewhat less.

Those residents are not too happy about getting betterment fees when the Northside Road residents didn't and that's because Mobil paid for it. It is difficult to give them an answer, but on the other hand, these people are going to be taking a big hit.

Mr. Gagner continued. Another issue was, with the residents on public sewer. They are charged 1% on what they actually use, but on a business or someone who has a meter, the going rate is twice what the meter says. With the Title V rate, in some cases, businesses can be charged up to 8 or 9 times to what the meter says, not twice. This is where the unfairness comes in.

Mr. Wicklund asked if anyone knew who the contact person was in Spencer. He then offered to contact State Rep. Peter Durant, who represents Spencer to ask him if he could check to see if Spencer would be interested or not regionalizing with Moose Hill. Mr. Parliment agreed.

Mr. Wicklund said that way, it would give another option looking at Route 31S and if that wasn't feasible, then go look at going Route 56 towards Oxford.

Mr. Parliment asked the population of Charlton.

Mr. Gagner said around 15-16,000. What Charlton talked about at one time was doing a feasibility study to see about going through the back way of Charlton, coming up through Gulfhead Road in Southbridge, which goes around and heads right up to the Center of Charlton. The problem with doing that, there were a lot of ups and downs regarding pressure drops and trying to get everyone within the right range and providing proper pressure into the homes. There wasn't enough money to pay for all that and the engineering costs went through the roof, as well as the cost of piping, so it just didn't work out.

Mr. Parliment asked Mr. Gagner how involved he felt Exxon/Mobil would be with some of the related costs with the Moose Hill Reservoir option.

Mr. Gagner said he thought Exxon/Mobil would be opened to this option, but he did not directly talk with their representative, the Town Administrator does.

Mr. Parliment said he wasn't trying to put him on the spot, but he was just wondering.

Mr. Gagner said to come down Route 169 and have the proper pressures in Charlton, the Mass. Ave. pumping station that Southbridge has, is not adequate, not to mention that it's very old. So they would have to put a pumping station down on Route 169.

Southbridge is against that because the pump station won't be located in Southbridge, it will be in Charlton. The road to Mass. Ave. runs right along the Charlton line, so there is no place to put a pumping station in Southbridge. As for Mobil, a pump station wasn't part of their deal. But in order to get water to Charlton, that is what has to be done.

Mr. Gagner felt if Mobil/Exxon was willing to spend that kind of money to come down Route 169, they would probably spend the money to come from Spencer or Rochdale.

Mr. Parliment said Charlton has a need for water and there's been that issue with pollution. He wondered if that would be something DEP would tweak a little, as far as the jumping through the reclassification hoops. When looking at the list from DEP, it's not insurmountable; it's just a number of things that he wasn't sure could possibly be streamed lined.

Mr. Gagner said they were still trying to get the 5-year deal with Southbridge done in the next couple of months and if it doesn't work out then Charlton would be wide open to this offer.

Mr. Parliment said sounds like Charlton is in an awkward position.

Mr. Gagner said even with the 5-year deal, Charlton still won't know whether, politically, it's going to be smooth sailing; there have been a lot of bumps in the road.

A lot of the piping already put in was PVC pipes to the homes and Southbridge wanted copper. So they had to dig up most of the pipes and replace the plastic with the copper. There was some evidence of oil deteriorating the PVC piping, but on the other hand copper had similar problems as well.

Many of the cities and towns no longer use copper and are doing very well, but that was Southbridge's request and they weren't bending on that. There were some PVC pipes already in where the CVS is located and they were in use. Southbridge did say okay to that, but that was almost the deal breaker. Charlton agreed from that point on to have all the remaining piping be done with copper.

Mr. Parliment said there was just an article in the paper regarding the Main Street pipes. Mr. Gagner said one of the problems with stagnant water and dead-ends in Charlton is dealing with salt.

The water comes down Route 169 and goes west to 5-east, the Mass Pike Station, which is the busiest station on the Turnpike and that's their biggest user, then they went up the other way to 6-west, by Cooks Farm. They've been changing the piping over as they go and now it's just a switch over.

A request has been sent to DEP for activation and Southbridge went along with this. This will take the water coming down from 169, have it go up to the turnpike station, go around the center of town and back down Route 20 and then go up to 5-east. And that should help with the stagnation issue, because the biggest user is now at the end of the line, rather than the beginning. Once they get water going through all these pipes, it will help considerably.

Another issue with contamination was with Honey Farms. When pumping the gas into the cars, the fumes coming back had to be recovered and there are two piping systems that do that. They put the wrong piping system on and it didn't match the pumping system of recovery they had. The fumes are condensed and go from gas to liquid and that got into the ground, and that happened a few years ago, but has dissipated considerably since.

Honey Farms is also putting in pipes and hooking up customers and that water has been activated in those pipes about two weeks ago, which maybe what Mr. Parliment read in the paper.

Mr. Gagner continued. They are now trying to get the word out to the Charlton residents that the water is running through those pipes now, but people are reluctant to hook up.

In the meantime, because of stagnation, there was a blow off that Honey Farms will be paying for in 6-quarters or 1 ½ years. All the 169 construction should be done by then and they will have a nice loop going around allowing more people to tie in and the more people who tie in, the better everything will be.

There still is a blow off at the Town Hall, because of Harrington Hospital. Southbridge kind of snuck in their friends from Southbridge to put the hospital in there before anything else was hooked up. We don't even know how they got building permits out of Charlton without getting signed up for water, but they did and the hospital is there. In order to keep the water fresh there, they are discharging 40,000 gallons a day. Now it's down to 20,000 because they do have Main Street to provide for, as well as the Town Hall to get hooked up.

There is still a blow off there and Harrington is paying for it and Honey Farms will be paying for 6-quarters when construction is complete and then they will not have a need for blow off anymore.

Mr. Parliment gave Mr. Gagner copies of DEPs letter for his review, so he could see what the initial situation was.

There have been many large meetings with different departments, as well as with DEP and one concern DEP had was dealing with a surface water supply, because no one at DEP has had any experience authorizing a surface water supply.

Mr. Parliment continued. As Mr. Wicklund pointed out, Moose Hill Reservoir holds a large capacity and based on past engineering reports, it was good enough to take care of both water supplies in Town, plus.

Mr. Gagner asked what was currently coming off of the reservoir now, was it parts of Leicester and parts of Spencer. Mr. Parliment said there is nothing coming off Moose Hill. The Town owns the water and the State owns the land and there was a 4-acre site, given by the State, for placement of the treatment plant.

The Commissioners have had discussions with Leicester's two water districts and both districts noted that, where and when development starts up again, there will not be an ample supply of water and that's when everyone will be looking for more water to supply these future developments.

Mr. Parliment noted that there were a number of opportunities; the Commissioners are just trying to figure out a way to make this all work, as opposed to turning it into a park.

There are the two water districts, along with Charlton that could utilize the water.

Mr. Gagner said he didn't know what Charlton had ever done regarding anything with the Charlton Reservoir, but he didn't think the Town was considering any reservoir because there isn't a purification system put in place and that's a very hefty price tag of around \$6-7 million. Then there's the piping needed to get the water to the pipes that are already installed. Then the cost would get picked up by the betterments to the people who already have betterments that they can't handle.

Mr. Gagner continued. If there were new homes that could contribute to the betterments that would be something else, but there really wouldn't be any new homes, maybe a few, but not enough. Also, drawing from a surface water supply, he didn't know where DEP stood on that.

Mr. Wicklund said the material that was passed out, should give the Charlton Commissioners some insight on what DEP requires.

Mr. Parliment asked Mr. Gagner if he knew what the capacity was to the Charlton Reservoir.

Mr. Gagner said he believed that they were drawing at least 2-million a day now and the capacity was around 8-10 million, but that may not be accurate.

Mr. Parliment asked if Charlton water was regulated. Mr. Gagner said yes, because they had to go to DEP to get approval to give Charlton 5000 gallons a day, not just the 100,000 gallons and that was approved around 3 years ago. But in order to take more out, they would have to ask DEP to take more.

Mr. Parliment asked what feeds the Charlton Reservoir. Mr. Gagner wasn't sure. There could be a number of things that contribute, such as, rain runoff or stream fed.

Mr. Parliment said whatever comes out and goes into a sewer system, goes through a treatment facility and then enters back into a river. Mr. Gagner said that has to do with a totally different location.

Mr. Wicklund said at previous meetings, the Commissioners discussed that if either Charlton or Spencer, or even both Towns, were interested in a partnership to supply water and satisfy DEP with their watershed concerns, we would have to turn around and take a look at a processing plant for wastewater. That way we can go from the other districts and pump water in and release it into the watershed, which should satisfy the DEP concerns.

Mr. Gagner said Moose Hill might already be in the same watershed as Charlton. One problem Charlton has is that the water doesn't discharge into a very large river, so they are somewhat limited in capacity.

They either have to clean it before it can be discharge or be stuck where they are at the 50,000 gallons a day now and can't be increased right now. Also, the parameters that have to be met each month from EPA are increasing every year.

Mr. Parliment said at this point, the Commission does need to contact Spencer to see if they are at all interested.

Mr. Wicklund said then there will be the option of figuring out what will be needed for a pumping station, such as, whether a low lift would be needed to go up to the Spence pumping station to tie in or whether a high lift is needed to go all the way up to Route 9. Then there would be the need to meet with the Town's local water districts that are using the lines and going

all the way down getting as close as possible to Oxford and the remainder would be that distance between the Leicester & Oxford pipes to do.

Mr. Gagner said there is a pumping station down near O'Malley's on Route 20 where the Flea Market used to be, because originally they were expecting to get the water from Oxford, which hasn't even been used yet. In fact their Commission just made a motion to exercise those pumps, which operate by bottled gas.

Mr. Parliment thanked Mr. Gagner for their interest.

Mr. Gagner asked if there was a small map available that could be sent in a word document showing how close the Town's water lines are to Oxford.

He knows in his head where the Charlton water pipes goes. He explained that the pipes end at Northside Road and on Route 20, they go by O'Malley's, down to where the Quarter Keg Pub is, then turns left onto Glen Muir and then the first right brings it back out onto Route 20 in front of Schmitt Equipment, but he wasn't sure where exactly it ended there.

Mr. Wicklund asked if the pipes crossed over Route 20. Mr. Gagner said they cross over Route 20 at the Quarter Keg Pub, to the south side of 20 and heads up that way into that pump station, then continues up further and crosses 20 again, but wasn't sure where.

Mr. Wicklund asked if Schmitt Equipment was tied in. Mr. Gagner said he didn't believe the pipes got to Schmitt. He explained that on the road that comes out at Schmitt, after the pipes come down Route 20, it takes a left at the corner of Quarter Keg Pub, goes up Glen Muir until it hits near Richardson Corner, then comes back out to Schmitt Equipment. On that street, there might be a small lift, but he wasn't sure. Where it ends, was pretty close to the Oxford Line. He wasn't sure where Oxford's water went or how close this was to that end.

Mr. Parliament noted that Cherry Valley/Rochdale supplies parts of Oxford with water that borders Rochdale.

Mr. Parliament gave Mr. Gagner, for his review, a copy of Moose Hill's Feasibility Study and explained that it was done back in 2008 by SEA Consultants, which was bought out by another company.

Mr. Gagner asked if copies of these documents could be made and sent to their Department's Superintendent.

The Commissioners offered to send all the Reservoir's past and present informational documents electronically to their Water Superintendent and Mr. Gagner accepted that offer.

Mr. Gagner also asked to have copies of tonight's meeting minutes sent to them as well.

Mr. Parliament agreed.

Mr. Parliament noted that if the Commissioners can get more parties involved in this, it would become much more viable then just having Leicester do this.

Mr. Gagner agreed and said they still need to talk with Exxon/Mobil, if the Southbridge deal doesn't go through, to see if they will stick by Charlton until a deal can be made with someone else or what. That would be the time to bring up the possibility of getting water from either Spencer or Leicester and would they be willing to spend the money geared for Route 169 and put it towards another possibility.

Mr. Gagner questioned the feasibility of water coming from Rochdale, as opposed to from Spencer.

Mr. Parliment didn't know and wouldn't want to give out any false information on that. He did wonder how far the Spencer pipes went, because Spencer is another piece to this puzzle. He felt this was helpful to know that there may be another opportunity here.

Mr. Wicklund said the ideal thing would be to get into a partnership with Charlton and Spencer. Spencer could pump the water into their treatment plant and that way everyone would take a part in this.

For example, Leicester has the water and puts in the pumping station, then it goes to Spencer's pump house located near the Fair Plaza, for purification. Spencer could expand that station to handle the extra water volume and then the pipes could be put in to Charlton, then everybody is a player.

Mr. Wicklund continued. One of the main things to find out right now is where all the existing pipes are located

At this point, Michael Knox from the Cherry Valley/Rochdale Water District arrived.

Mr. Parliment summarized how everyone has been trying to figure out the feasibility on the location of water lines to where Town boundaries lines are located.

Mr. Gagner said Charlton should know soon where they stand with Southbridge with the 5-year agreement and then they will proceed with the construction work next summer. That may mean they would be less interested in Moose Hill, but still it's not to say Charlton couldn't switch over when the 5-year agreement is up.

Mr. Parliment said this Commission will still try moving ahead, we just wanted to know that there may be other options. Mr. Gagner agreed.

Mr. Parliment felt, at this point, regionalizing is the key. Mr. Gagner agreed and noted that DEP encourages it.

At this point, Mr. Parliment thanked Mr. Gagner for taking the time to meet with the Commission and Mr. Gagner thanked the Commission for their consideration towards Charlton.

Approval of Minutes:

8/26/2013

MOTION: Mr. Wicklund moved to approve the minutes of August 26, 2013

SECONDED: Mr. Parliment – Discussion: None

VOTE: All in Favor

Discussion:

Full Buildout analysis (Rte. 9W)

Mr. Wicklund asked what the Town Planner had said about asking CMRPC on getting a buildout analysis of Route 9 west. Mr. Parliment said the Town Planner was going to look into it.

Dam Inspection

Mr. Greg Buteau asked if any information was found regarding when the Annual Inspection of the Reservoir and Dam would be. Mr. Parliment said Mr. Brooks did look into it and has not gotten a response back yet from either the DCR or Senator Moore.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Wicklund put out to the Board for discussion, as to whether there was a way the Moose Hill Water Commission could establish some sort of income, from the Town, for the development of Moose Hill Reservoir, seeing that there are some new businesses starting to come into Town.

For example, is there some way that the Town would entertain putting a *tax*, (for the lack of a better word), on new businesses, for water development. That a percentage be put into a fund earmarked for Moose Hill Water District Development, instead of trying to go to the businesses after the fact, seeing if we can get money out of them and then have them say, no not interested. Mr. Parliment agreed that if the reservoir was going to be viable water source, a financial resource will be necessary. He will run that thought by the Town Administrator to get his take on it.

Mr. Wicklund felt the immediate need was to find out from the Cherry Valley/Rochdale Water District where their water lines end or where they cross near Oxford, so the Commissioners can figure out what will be viable.

He asked who owned the pipes that the Town put in along Route 9 west.

Mr. Parliment said according to the contract, they were put in for Moose Hill, but Leicester Water signed off on it.

Mr. Wicklund asked even if the Commission jumps through all the hoops, and gets the funding and puts in the pumping station to bring the water up to Route 9; will a fee have to be put onto the Water Districts to utilize the water. Mr. Parliment wasn't sure.

Mr. Wicklund continued. The water will run through the pipes along Route 9 to the Center, once it gets to the Center, it has to go from Leicester Center, down Route 56 or down Route 9 into the Valley. Now, will the other water districts say to Moose Hill, yes you can use our pipes, but there will be a user fee. Mr. Parliment said that will be a bridge to cross for sure when the time comes.

Mr. Wicklund noted that Mr. Brooks informed him that he started the filming of the Moose Hill Reservoir Dam & Watershed property.

Correspondence

- An email memo from the Town Moderator regarding the Commissioner's recent inquiry about getting an article placed on the warrant without having to submit it through the Board of Selectmen. The Moderator informed the Commissioners that according to the MGL, the warrant for Town Meeting is created by the Selectmen and that course cannot be deviated from and since the Selectmen sign the warrant, which gets notarized for posting, only articles that have been *duly* posted can be acted upon at Town Meeting.
- An email memo from Steve Wandland, Superintendent of the Charlton Water Department confirming tonight's date for the joint meeting.

Upon a brief discussion, it was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, December 10th.

MOTION: Mr. Wicklund moved to adjourn

SECONDED: Mr. Parliment – Discussion: None

VOTE: All in Favor

Meeting adjourned at 7:35PM

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Knox

Barbara Knox