

Water Study Committee & Master Plan Subcommittee
Joint Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2014

Note: Draft Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval. Review and approval of Minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The October 16, 2014 joint meeting commenced at 4:00 p.m. at Swanzev Town Hall. Present were: Don Skiba (MP & WSC), Glenn Page (MP & WSC), Sly Karasinski (WSC) and Steve Bittel (WSC). Also present was Sara Carbonneau, Director of Planning and Community Development.

Motion by Page to approve the minutes from September 18, 2014. Seconded by Bittel. Vote: All in favor.

Skiba and Page recounted their records review at the Public Utilities Commission and at the Department of Environmental Services. Skiba stated that there were no surprises in the documents. Noted that Mark Naylor (PUC) stated that small water companies can't afford to stay in the business and that the PUC is encouraging them "to go away." The only options for financing private water companies are private loans or financing through a very competitive revolving loan program.

Page stated that the scenario of water "simply stopping" in west Swanzev is not realistic. In the event that the West Swanzev Water Company ceases to exist, the PUC would take it in receivership and then try to find a buyer.

Format of final report to the Selectmen was discussed. Skiba provided the members with a draft outline, asking for any changes that may be required. It was suggested that the opportunities section include information about the local talent (resources) that the town can provide. Also, in the "problems" section, information regarding the tanks (and the need for repair or replacement) should be discussed. Skiba stated that he would email the revised outline to members and asked that they respond to him with thoughts/text/data to fill in each section. Once he has received feedback from all, he will prepare a draft of the report for review. A deadline of November 16th for the draft report was established.

Noted that members of the Brown family (owners of the Homestead Woolen Mill property and the West Swanzev Water Company) would be present at the Selectmen's meeting on October 21st. Karasinski noted that should Town Hall and Police Department move to the Homestead Woolen Mills property, there is sufficient supply of water to serve those needs.

Next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20th, at 4 p.m., again as a joint meeting. Meeting will be held at Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Submitted by,
Sara H. Carbonneau
Secretary to the Committee