Water Commissioner Melissa Lombard called the meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Department’s operations building off Depot Street with the following commissioners, staff and municipal officer in attendance.

Melissa Lombard, Commission Chair  
Sam Harding, Commissioner and Scribe  
Chris Rawnsley, Commissioner  
Matt Miller, Superintendent  
Bob Edwards, Ex-officio member-Select Board

1. Matt Miller noted that he and Bob Edwards had attended the DES sponsored Drinking Water Infrastructure Loan and Grant Conference to determine how the Program might support Antrim with its continuing research to develop a second town well that will provide improved water quality while demonstrating an acceptable flow rate. Messrs. Miller and Edwards reported that as the name implies, the Program includes both a loan and grant component. There has been a commission established to review applications for financial support and the commission will review all applications and decide what communities will receive approval and to what dollar amount and priority. Approved loans will have a fixed interest rate and repayment amortization terms at an interest rate driven by a spread over a selected financial index.

The Program intends to leverage the funds NH received from the MtBE Exxon-Mobil settlement of approximately $280MM dollars, invest the funds and loan interest so that communities can improve their water delivery systems as much as possible state-wide. In order to achieve their goal, applicants will need to demonstrate they have sought every possible source of funding, including municipal contributions, so that the Fund’s component of the project cost is as small possible and will hopefully be sufficient to make the improvements. They encourage communities not to make judgements on the likelihood of approval but rather submit their application and let the Commission decide. The point they raised was that communities have to have equity into the project and not expect the majority of their project funding to come from the state program.

The Conference also discussed another DES initiative that spoke to land preservation of community water sources that might be endangered by a source of nearby potential contamination and demonstrates a community needs to acquire land to protect its water source(s).

2. The Commissioners discussed the process for proceeding with the two additional test wells. It was decided to proceed with Geo-Insight to seek bids in an attempt to be successful with a new well on Antrim town property that has both good quality water and flow rate. The funds established a $70,000 budget item for that purpose and Chris suggested the commissioners proceed. Matt noted that Eric and Dave Beck are discussing and developing ideas of how an Antrim-Bennington cooperative joint venture might appear and more discussion will ensue once the inventory component of the Asset Management Plan has been completed for both towns.
Matt noted that Bennington’s well is not a young well and its usage was quite extensive when Monadnock Paper Mills used it heavily in the past.

3. The subject of the river crossing was discussed and its need for a back-up line (second line). Edwards asked about the easement over the Tenney property and no one was well versed in its language. It was discussed that the easement should be located and read to better understand its terms as it will come into play when the Asset Management Plan is developed and when a second line is installed. Matt will discuss with Donna Hanson to determine if a document has been recorded.

4. A general discussion took place centered on the development of the comprehensive inventory to be completed by the Dufresne Group beginning in early June 2018. It was noted that water metering system connections in certain isolated cases will need updating and corrective action implemented this year as in previous times, it was very difficult to do so. This applies to a much lesser extent with certain sewer connections. Matt noted that the inventory process will identify the shortfalls that will require corrective action so that those issues can be addressed and resolved timely. Edwards asked about Water & Sewer written operations policies to ensure best practices and compliance with their content. Matt showed those present the existing operating procedures and guidelines and noted that Eric was working on updating the water side first and then will address the sewer component. Once done, the commissioners will review them and if acceptable, vote their acceptance. It is anticipated that they both will be updated before year-end 2018. Matt further stated that as far as personnel procedures, the Department operates under and follows the Town of Antrim’s policy.

5. Matt noted that the Dufresne Group volunteered to complete the sewer application for its AMP at no cost if they get the job.

6. Matt explained that the Leak Detection analysis will be completed by a contractor awarded by the State of NH. He was awaiting word from the state and will follow up with them.

7. Since the approval has been received from Governor and Council of the AM water Plan, a pre-construction meeting with the Dufresne Group will be forthcoming and Matt will notify all parties of the date once known.

8. The commissioners reviewed, discussed and approved all pending invoices (Acct Payable) and signed the required documentation.

9. Matt responded to a question regarding iron complaints and stated none have been received recently.

10. Matt said Granite State will be conducting a flow rating test soon but commented that the new Highland/Pleasant initiative increased flow rate impressively, and has made a material improvement for firefighting purposes.

With no other matters coming before the meeting, the commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:47pm

Respectfully,

Bob Edwards
Secretary, Pro-Tem