

## Minutes of the Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct

Location of Meeting: 9 Woodbury Lane  
Boscawen, N.H. 03303

Present at Meeting: Nathan Young, Commissioner, Chair  
Bill Murphy, Commissioner  
Frank Dineen, Commissioner  
Cheryl Mitchell, Administrative Consultant  
Nate, EJ Prescott  
Liem, EJ Prescott

The regular meeting of the Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct was called to order at 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, N.H. on May 8, 2024, at 5:28 p.m. by Commissioner Nathan Young, Chair.

### **Financial Update:**

Commissioners signed manifest and checks.

### **Approval of minutes from last meeting:**

***Commissioner Bill Murphy made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 24, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Frank Dineen. Passed Unanimously.***

### **New Business:**

1. EJP Meter Information: EJ Prescott representative reported they are now leaving Sensus after 62 years. Xylem purchased Sensus in 2016 and is strictly a family-owned company. The new company which EJ Prescott will now be using is Kamstrup which has two manufacturing facilities. Compliant lead times are much better and they believe it will be a better product for everybody. The radio system from Kamstrup can be wired into the Sensus meters and be able to read them. However, there was discussion that the Precinct system is coming up to 15 years so replacement may be in the near future. Current EJ Prescott can just do the meters or just the wiring from the new radios to the existing meters, or the Precinct can look into doing the entire system. EJ Prescott will work with Tara King at Pennichuck leasing the handheld equipment. Noting that there is no proprietary handheld, it is simply a standard tables and then there is a reading conversion

which EJ Prescott can help make the transition if the Precinct chooses to go that way. Commissioner Bill Murphy questioned if the transition needs to be done all at once. EJ Prescott responded with a no; it can be staggered. The large goal will be staggering the conversion. Commissioner Bill Murphy questioned if Kamstrup has been on the market for a while. EJ Prescott reported Kamstrup has been in business since 1946. Commissioner Bill Murphy explained the issue with Sensus is they have a bad reputation but the Precinct has not experienced problems except an occasional one which has not worked correctly. Commissioner Bill Murphy further noted in testing the Sensus meters it is rare to find a meter which is truly defective. They may not read as high as liked, they all read a bit low. But they seem to work fine. One of the problems with Sensus for Pennichuck is that there are some which will not be read. EJ Prescott explained that Kamstrup reads on a different frequency on 450 megahertz so it is a much longer wavelength and penetrates better and reads further. There is still a 900 megahertz as well, as a backup. Commissioner Nathan Young questioned if the radios will be able to be in basements to read instead of all being located outdoors. EJ Prescott expressed that they will be able to read from basements. There is nothing to maintain in the meters as they have built in acoustically detection . Which also helps you to find distribution of service lines. Commissioner Bill Murphy noted the Kamstrup would be sensing the sound. EJ Prescott noted the Kamstrup is the industry best. Commissioner Nathan Young questioned the back end of things such as customer data and if the Kamstrup system has any firewall protection built into the program. EJ Prescott note it's a host software so the tablet can be anywhere so it does not have to be at the same network. It is all Kamstrup services and is secure. Commissioner Nathan Young questioned what the price comparison is between Kamstrup and Sensus. EJ Prescott reported \$250 for the meter and the radio so you would be at 1/2 to 2/3 the cost, and availability for residential size is running 2 to 4 weeks for any quantity. Commissioner Bill Murphy questioned when the Precinct runs out of the stock of Sensus meter stock be sold and replace them with Kamstrup as needed. Pennichuck does not have any Kamstrup anywhere but it is all one in the same in a lot of ways with a different manufacture. Also, Kamstrup takes the folders notes which are specifically programmed such as 10 cubic foot in terms of billing. If down the road if the Precinct wants to change the cubic foot being used you would not need to program all the meters as it is all changeable in software. They are also offering a stainless steel option. Commissioner Bill Murphy questioned the wiring of the meter. They do offer a wired meter but EJ Prescott does not see the need, noting that they do offer a snap in unit security was discussed, there being transponders on the outside of homes was discussed, and pit performance and durability in mobile home parks was discussed, along with . Kamstrup is making an external mount meter called M2U which can be utilized as

master meters. More discussion was held regarding the meter sizes, performance, etc. Commissioner Bill Murphy noted Sensus meter have a lithium battery within it which makes recycling virtually impossible unless the unit is opened up. Unfortunately, the Kamstrup does still have a lithium battery within and you cannot remove it for most residential units. Commissioner Frank Dineen questioned what the life expectancy of Kamstrup. EJ Prescott reported there is a 20-year life expectancy. It was noted Kamstrup is lower on failure rates and is great on warranties. Freezing and durability of the meters was also discussed. EJ Prescott reported that they currently have a package deal and for 100 meters of 5/8 or 3/4, all the reading equipment, the setup, and software and hardware for \$30,000. There are around 1,400 connections in Boscawen and at \$250 a meter. The rest is paid by tiers and is a yearly fee. No figure was available for the tiers, but EJ Prescott noted it is less expensive than the Sensus. The leak detection is optional but recommended. The tiers would be: 250 tier would be \$1400 the 800 is around \$1800 and 1500 is around \$2200 per year. Currently the low tier of Sensus is \$2500 and high tier is \$3600. Discussion also took place regarding supporting both Sensus and Kamstrup together and support from EJ Prescott. Commissioner Nathan Young asked about the Woody Hollow meter progress. EJ Prescott recommended Woody Hollow reach out to Sensus for a warranty register, an advanced warranty basis. Commissioner Nathan Young asked how much the standalone hardware cost. EJ Prescott reported the converter kit is around \$4000 Other equipment was also discussed. Also noted is there is Federal Funding available for financing and EJ Prescott will work with the Precinct regarding financing. Further discussion took place regarding temperature benefits.

EJ Prescott departed the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

The Commissioners discussed the presentation and its contents. Perhaps asking for a trial to be installed and read would be a way to proceed prior to paying for an unknown system such as Kamstrup and how it integrates to the Precincts system. Commissioner Nathan Young reported doing quick math 1200 meters the two-year pricing makes it \$300,000 as opposed to \$440,000 which would be a savings of \$140,000. Discussion also took place regarding installation pricing, Software, Pennichuck's role, along with the need for proof of concept starting with a Mobile Home park. A further discussion took place regarding changing from EJ Prescott to another dealer and staying with Sensus. The general consensus of the Commissioners is that a trial would have to be done prior to making any decisions.

2. Paving/Repairs at Queen Street Tanks: Commissioner Bill Murphy reported he talked with the Facilities Manager at Merrimack County because the Precinct does not own the road it only owns the small piece of the parking lot. Commissioner Bill

Murphy was questioning if they had any plans on paving because it seems ridiculous to just do the small part the Precinct owns. Commissioner Bill Murphy and the Facilities manager met at the tank today and they have some paving going on in the fall with GMI and the cost be divided. Commissioner Bill Murphy will call Porter for the other two. Commissioner Nathan Young questioned where the Precinct is at with the repair on the shed. There has been no work done as of yet. A discussion took place regarding the repair work.

3. Audley Blasting Schedule: Commissioner Bill Murphy reported that two blasting were done and neither blast triggered the seismograph. The last blast they turned the sensitivity back and it was good. They are doing the blasting in three-to-four-day intervals and they have probably three or four more to go and they will be done for the year.
4. 60-a Chandler Street Leak Credit: Commissioner Bill Murphy reported he was able to get Sarah at Pennichuck to compute a credit which ended up being \$313.60 which she applied to the bill and took the remaining balance out of the credit which they were running on the other account. The customer agreed and there is still a little bit of credit on the account.
5. Electrical Issues, Corrosion Building: Commissioner Bill Murphy reported he has not heard anything and Commissioner Nathan Young will check on the issue. Additionally, Commissioner Nathan Young will ask around about Pennichuck's go to electrical company.
6. Merrimack County, McLeod Bldg. Meter Issue: Commissioner Bill Murphy reported the McLeod building use has been estimated. However, the facilities person was in touch with Pennichuck to go out and look at the 2-inch meter and see if there is an issue with the meter or if there is something else which needs to be done. Commissioner Bill Murphy will check back in a week or two for an update on the situation
7. Emergency Plan and Risk Assessment: Commissioner Nathan Young reported both are completed and there are copies of the updated Emergency Plan and Risk Assessment Plan at the Precinct office. Commissioner Nathan Young explained how the reporting is done and they are both up to date a good through 2026. It should be looked at and updated every few years.
8. Well #4 Original Grant (7/1/2024): Commissioner Nathan Young reported on July 1<sup>st</sup> the Well#4 original grant is up and there is approximately \$7,000 left on that. Commissioner Nathan Young also reported he spoke with Gregg form Wright Pierce and the Precinct might take some top sample for PFAS which was being avoided. But if the money is going to disappear the Precinct might as well get a

data point from it. Gregg is also going to do some work on general contractual things with the landowner so the Commissioners have templates to start going off of as far as contracts go. He will use the remainder of the money to do contract templates, permission to be on land templates, and maybe some PFAS testing as well. Chris Berg from Wright Pierce will contact the state to see if the large water withdrawal permit can be tied into any of the money remaining.

9. Town Emergency Plan: Commissioner Nathan Young reported the Town Emergency Plan should be just about completed and signed in. He did go as the representative as the Water Precinct and signed on the Precincts behalf and as the contact person. Additionally, when the Emergency Plan is completed, the State will supply the Town with a confirmation number which the Precinct will need to submit in the Precinct Grants.
10. Asset Management Field Work: Commissioner Nathan Young reported he received an email from Brianna Wentworth at Wrigt Pierce explaining they are looking to begin scheduling with the Asset Management Project and Eric from the Wright Pierce office is available to perform the condition assessment for the vertical facilities including the three Wells, the Well control building, the Corrosion control facility, the Water Street booster, the pressure reducing valve intersections of three and four, and the maintenance facility administration building. The assessment is expected to be completed in one day. Looking at Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. They will also be putting together a draft of the fieldwork flow plan as soon as it is scheduled. Commissioner Nathan Young will contact them and okay the 30<sup>th</sup> he will also ask if they will be looking at the tanks.
11. Hydro (\$446.64): Commissioner Nathan Young noted the last net metering Hydro payment was \$446.64.
12. Generators Getting Major PM Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> (PowerUp): Commissioner Nathan Young will be around for PowerUp to come out on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> to do the Major PM on both Generators.
13. Flushing Intensity: Commissioner Nathan Young reported it seems like the flushing this year has been much more intense then next year. Also, the Commissioners need to figure out a more convenient way to give the customers a heads up when flushing is done as there were a lot of upset people. The flushing notice did not match up with how it was flushed. Also, it was noted that they were saying that the booster station kept tripping when they were flushing. They seem to be doing two hydrant flushing at the same time where in the past they were doing only one hydrant at a time. A discussion took place regarding unaccounted for water during flushing, the tripping at the booster station, and the changes made in the flushing

program. Commissioner Nathan Young will speak with Chad at Pennichuck about the next flushing and questions which the Commissioners have. Further discussion took place about pumping, flow, pressure, psi, etc.

**Long-Term Projects:**

- 1. Well #4: Tabled
- 2. GIS: Tabled
- 3. Corrosion Building Generator: Tabled

**Meeting Closed:**

***Motion to Close the Meeting by Commissioner Nathan Young. Seconded by Commissioner Frank Dineen. Passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm. by Commissioner Nathan Young, Chair.***

**Next Meeting:**

The Next Regular Meeting Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct, 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, NH. on, Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lauren Hargrave, Recording Clerk on May 13, 2024

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ on May 29 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ on May 29 2024  
\_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ on May 29 2024