

**Minutes of the Public Information Meeting regarding the Rural Development Grant with Underwood Engineers and 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  
Lauren Hargrave, Clerk  
Cheryl Mitchell, Consultant  
Dan Rochette, Underwood Engineer  
Tim Scheer, Underwood Engineer  
Jordan Brock, Underwood Engineer

The Public Information Meeting regarding the Rural Development Grant with Underwood Engineers and Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct was called to order at 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, N.H. on March 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. by Commissioner Nathan Young, Chair.

1. Introduction:

Dan Rochette introduced himself, Jordan Brock, Project Engineer, and Tim Scheer, Project Engineer.

Dan Rochette presented a hard copy of the Underwood Engineering Slide Presentation to those present for the meeting. Dan Rochette briefly explained the agenda for tonight's meeting.

2. Project Background: H

Dan Rochette noted that historically, the Precinct has previously worked with the Town of Boscawen when sewer work was being done to do improvements to the water system as a parallel and cost-efficient way to do this. It reduces restoration costs and to only have to dig a hole once. The last project which was done in this manner was in 2006 with work on the Gage Street area, approximately 9,000-foot water main improvements. A lot of talk has been had with the Town of Boscawen since that Gage Street project and filing in 2023 the Town was ready to begin work on the next phases on their sewer separation and ionite reduction program which

is the project area 3 & 4 which are shown in blue on the map being reviewed on the PowerPoint. The area is part of the lower Queen Street, Oak, and Park Street Areas. Proposed around 11,000 feet within that area generally all liner improvements, water mains, services, hydrants, etc. Underwood started doing some preliminary engineering on the project about a year and a half ago and last summer a preliminary engineering report was submitted.

The scope which was identified in the engineering report was to go through some of the parts of the project and provide some recommendations and feasibility. The largest part of that was the evaluation of lining or rehabilitation about 5,200 feet of existing water main primarily along North Main Street and Lower Queen Street. Those are some areas that coincided where the Town was proposing to rehab some of their sewer lines as well. Such as, where roads are going to be dug. More specifically, the Town will be lining sewers on Main Street. Bids and Surveys were completed as part of the Town's contract included looking for water service locations which was accomplished along with updating Underwood's opinion on probable costs on the recommended work. Underwood did look into the feasibility of rehabilitation or lining some existing water mains. The issue with the lining is that it reduces restoration costs as it can improve the condition of the pipe without digging. It helps to the structural characteristics of the pipe, and you can also get some improved flow characteristics as well. Essentially the gain is improved service life of existing infrastructure without going through the effort of digging.

Also, as part of the assessment some phone calls were made and one regional installer was located, Green Mountain, who are listed as a licensed installer but has never installed any of the pipe. Green Mountain did indicate that technology was developed for lining, but it is something that never really took off in the industry. It does still require installing temporary water mains. Having to shut and drain the water main down and do the work. So, it is still fairly expensive and involved cost and effort to go through in order to reestablish water services you would still have to do so by digging as there is no internal method of reestablishing water. Overall, it sounds like it has limited installation if the area and even nationwide. Underwood also spoke with some local communities, and they have a severely significant cement lining program. However, cement linings are not viable for AC pipe. Noting that North Main Street contains some AC pipe it would not be viable in those sections. Green Mountain also recommended that if there is intent on digging up the roadway anyway that the pipe might as well be replaced. The cement lining is primarily done because wherever it is being done there is no plan for road reconstruction. They are just doing improvements to the water system itself. Dan Rochette showed a photograph of cement lining being installed inside a pipe.

After all review Underwood's engineering report recommended that all water mains be replaced with new pipes. As far as material is concerned it is the assumption that ductal iron be utilized. Rehabilitation is not practical in the application being looked at. Also, it makes sense to move forward to complete the water system

improvements with the Towns improvements. The report review also noted that during the final design of the project the actual projects limits of construction will be reviewed. While the report was being done

Dan Rochette summarize budget funding by explaining that while reviewing the report the budget was growing to more than what the Precinct could be palatable for rate impacts. Therefore, Underwood would like to control that with project size. Underwood also included or discussed recommendations for accommodating future development which might be in the project area in the report. Dan Rochette presented a photograph on the PowerPoint of change up and graphics showing what one of the field service sketches looked like when they did the basement surveys. The information of where the sewer service came out of the building was obtained along with where the water line comes in.

3. Budget and Funding: Dan Rochette reported the original project budget for the entire 11,000 feet was a cost of approximately 7.7 million, which would have resulted in an approximate rate increase of approximately \$67 a quarter. After looking at the number the Precinct decided the project needed to be reduced to try to control the cost impact. Therefore, after some discussions with the Precinct the decision was made to eliminate Queen Street and North Main Street from the project. At this time this will reduce the cost by approximately 3.9 million. Even though there is a reduction on the construction scope of the project the intent is to design all of the 11,000 feet. The idea is that the design will already be in place if there is an ability to do something in the future. Once bids are received and reviewed it is possible that there may be some budget available if the bids are lower than expected. Which would give the opportunity to perhaps add a street in if the budget allows.

Currently the budget is 3.9 to 4 million dollars. Of that construction costs or installation costs is about 2.9 million. Engineering, construction, and design is a little over 500,000 dollars. Right now, Underwood is caring a contingency of almost 600,000 and as the design is moving forward in theory the percentage will carry on contingency shrinks. Dan Rochette believes at this point there is a 30% contingency in the budget and as Underwood moves into the design process and bidding carrying a contingency will still be recommended but they will only show a 5 or 10 percent contingency and not a 30 percent contingency.

Dan Rochette reported Underwood has looked into a couple of funding options so far. The first one was the Drinking Water State revolving fund through DES. This is a loan program which usually uses federally appropriated funds and does require authority to borrow. There is also federal funding requirements applied, and some principle forgiveness is included. Underwood did submit a preapplication for it this past June and the preapplication review, however, the project was unable to rank high enough to be on the priority list. Underwood spoke with Rural Development which is a US Department of Agriculture program which is similar to the FRS program it is a loan program which requires authority to borrow. Additionally,

Underwood did submit the full application package in January and Underwood is still doing coordination with them. Additional information requested was submitted last week and Underwood spoke with Andrea Sullivan-Allen yesterday. They will be meeting in a couple of weeks as a district to assemble all the projects that were submitted in New England. When they meet in two weeks they will prioritize the projects they received to see what will make the cut for funding this year through the districts allocations and if it does not make the priority or budget at that point they will send it to on to the National level for projects. It appears to be a matter of funding this fiscal year or next fiscal year. Essentially, the Rural Development is what is being looked at to utilize. It does have similar interest rates to the SRF projects and similarly to the SRF there are Federally Funding requirements and there is also some potential for some principle forgiveness. There is a community development Block Grant program which can be looked into. It does require an income survey of the project area, so Underwood is waiting to see how the RD comes out before the Block Grant is looked into more.

4. Next Steps: Dan Rochette reported the next steps are to outline the project schedule. The current priority is finalizing the funding to hopefully get into the position that RD is all set to review and decide. Shortly Underwood is going to start working on the actual final design. Advancing the project forward. The final design work of the water improvements will be done in parallel with the Town. A submittal schedule will be outlined in the future for the Precinct to try to have some target deadlines for design submittals for review. Ideally Underwood is looking to bid the project sometime next winter in order to get a start in the Spring.
5. Questions: Commissioner Nathan Young questioned the RD the Precinct members approve Loan, and no ground has been broken yet, is the Precinct still able to put in for other grant opportunities to supplement to project once a loan is accepted. Dan Rochette stated he is not entirely familiar with how loan interacts with other opportunities and would have to look into it although he noted that Underwood has utilized different funding resources. It is possible to fund a project with multiple sources, but he is unsure if RD allows it. Commissioner Nathan Young questioned if the other grant option Dan Rochette spoke about should be preceded with immediately or does the Precinct have to wait to see what the result of the RD is. Dan Rochette will double check with RD to make sure there is no issue in doing so. From a work ethic standpoint Underwood was starting to run short on time in getting the RD application in so the focus was primarily on that. Underwood can explore the CDBG now that the RD application has been completed. Dan Rochette has never been involved in the income survey so Underwood would have to determine what goes into that. Commissioner Nathan Young would like to look into other grants so the need for the RD can become less. In other words, he would like to explore any other opportunities available to be explored as soon as possible. Commissioner Bill Murphy questioned at what point the authority vote should be obtained. Dan Rochette reported that sooner rather than later would be his suggestion. However, he believes the authority to borrow only needs to be done in time to commit to the loan. Commissioner Nathan Young

noted the Precinct has a general article at their Annual Meeting which allows the Commissioners permission to commit. However, it is probably legally better if there is an individual meeting held to be explicitly clear. Commissioner Bill Murphy noted it is a definite appropriation as opposed to what the normal black statement of the Annual Warrant Articles states as perhaps it could be challenged regarding the costs involved. Commissioner Nathan Young reported a special meeting will be held at some point regarding the committal. Commissioner Frank Dineen noted that customers will want to know how much there water bill will increase so more specifics will be needed prior to answering such customer questions. Commissioner Nathan Young noted that the Precinct will have to be rework the Rate Schedule also. The Precinct wants to try to rase rates in the fairest way possible but will need actual numbers in order to do so. Dan Rochette noted that if the Precinct would like them to attend the special meeting for committal they would definitely come in and do a presentation to help explain the project to users. Commissioner Bill Murphy did note that political issues regarding tariffs effecting pricing in the future. Dan Rochette did note that when Federally funded programs are used everything is usually required by American Steel so it may not be materials coming out of another country and may not effect pricing as much. Although it may still effect American pricing. A brief discussion took place regarding both HDPE and ductile iron pipe, pricing, leaching, adapters, and installation process.

#### **Meeting Closed:**

***Motion to Close the by Commissioner Bill Murphy. Seconded by Commissioner Frank Dineen. Passed Unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm. by Commissioner Nathan Young, Chair.***

#### **Next Meeting:**

The Boundary Change Meeting will be held at the Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct, 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, NH on March 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The Next Regular Meeting will be held at the Penacook/Boscawen Water Precinct, 9 Woodbury Lane, Boscawen, NH on March 26, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lauren Hargrave, Recording Clerk on March 17, 2025

Minutes approved by: \_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ on March 26, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ on March 26, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_ on March 26, 2025