

LINCOLN WATER COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 16, 2011

WORK SESSION

A special meeting of the Lincoln Board of Water Commissioners was held at the Lincoln Water Commission Office with Commissioners Conklin, Hadley, Kay, DeCotis, and Lapierre present. Also present was Water Superintendent John S. Faile. Foremen Lewis Prescott, Jean Gagnon, Joseph Bastic and billing clerk Steven Saritelli were in the audience.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04PM.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the feasibility of forming a Lincoln Water and Sewer Commission, as requested by the Town Administrator at the regular monthly meeting on March 9th.

Discussion immediately took place relative to the steps that would be required prior to assuming responsibility of the Town of Lincoln Sewer Project. A charter revision would require General Assembly passage, along with Public education, legal agreements and easements, financial accounts and administrative staffing and policies.

Commissioners discussed that since they are elected as Water

Commissioners, is the changing of their title acceptable to the public. A public referendum may be required.

Other points of discussion focused on the work, time, and money needed to explore the option of the Commission assuming responsibility of the sewer project versus privatization of same.

The Board wants to do what would best benefit the taxpayers of the Town of Lincoln.

Other considerations and options were discussed and focus remained mainly on the effect to the citizenry of the Town.

Commissioner Kay shared her experience when faced with privatization.

Commissioner DeCotis spoke of maintenance and upkeep of equipment and assets.

Commissioners Lapierre and Hadley along with the others expressed the concern of the cost to rate payers, since the cost of sewer will have to be adjusted upward to pay for needed repairs and improvements.

After all the initial concerns were expressed, the Superintendent informed the Board that this is indeed a Board decision as the policy

makers for the Water Commission. He will follow the lead of the Board.

The Superintendent informed the Board that if taking on additional responsibilities is what they ask the staff to do, they can do it. The Water Commission staff has the expertise to effectively run a combined sewer/water utility.

Commissioner DeCotis reminded the Superintendent that the bottom line is money and the cost of maintaining sewer pumping stations, staff and equipment. Where will it be generated from other than raising rates?

The Superintendent then reminded the Board that if the rates are raised by the Water Commission for sewer upkeep, it will have less of an impact on the Town than a private company doing the same work for profit.

Further discussion will take place at the April 13th regular meeting, with a decision to be made on the response to the Town Administrator.

The work session was adjourned at 6:40.