

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM PLATFORM  
March 10, 2021 3:45 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman  
via Zoom: Councilor Matt Gerding  
Councilor Martin Dumont, Vice Chairman  
Councilor Kenneth Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore  
via Zoom: Finance Director Scott Smith  
Director of Public Works Michael Bobinsky  
Deputy City Clerk Ammy Ramsey  
City Engineer Amber Ferland

Others present: Tim Vadney of Wright-Pierce Engineering  
via Zoom: Jeff Mercer of Wright-Pierce Engineering

---

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 3:50 p.m.

As Chair of the Somersworth Public Works and Environment Committee, I, Councilor David Witham find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. The public was asked to submit comments via email to [jslaven@somersworth.com](mailto:jslaven@somersworth.com) or [bblmore@somersworth.com](mailto:bblmore@somersworth.com) by Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 12:00 noon.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING ON February 16, 2021

***Councilor Dumont made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gerding and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

EPA GREAT BAY TOTAL NITROGEN GENERAL PERMIT

City Manager Belmore informed the Committee that City Staff engaged in a conference call with the EPA, Tim Vadney, and Jeff Mercer with Wright-Pierce Engineering to gather information to assist this Committee in deciding on a recommendation to present to the City Council. Belmore stated that Wright-Pierce sent out a draft technical memorandum addressing the considerations relating to the General Permit.

Tim Vadney explained that the City has the option to participate in the General Permit that was drafted by the EPA or have nitrogen limits imposed by the EPA through the renewal process of their individual NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit. Vadney explained that the goal of the permit is to regulate nitrogen in the estuary from the permittees through a combination of mandatory point-source load limits at municipalities' Wastewater Treatment Facilities and long-term voluntary non-point source reductions within the permittee communities. Vadney also informed the Committee of the current system in place at the WWTF and how the facility is treating the point source total nitrogen.

Councilor Vincent inquired about any costs that would occur. Vadney explained the memo does include some details and estimated costs for different options the City could consider. One of those considerations is to make contributions to regional entities such as the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP), Piscataqua Region Monitoring Collaborative (PRMC), or joint collaboration with General Permit permittees such as the Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA). There was discussion pertaining to the IMA that Rochester, Dover, and Portsmouth developed to collaborate efforts required to satisfy parts of the adaptive management proposal and provide a cost-sharing agreement. City Manager Belmore mentioned that he thought the City could join the IMA at a later time if they find it to be cost effective instead of making contributions to PREP and PRMC.

The consensus of the Committee is to go with the General Permit but not the IMA at this time.

***Councilor Dumont made a motion to recommend to the full City Council to move forward with a Notice of Intent to seek coverage under the General Permit. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0 by roll call vote.***

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Tim Vadney stated that the current WWTF upgrade is on schedule, but there may be a potential delay from suppliers. He also explained that the current upgrades are on equipment from the 1970's and unfortunately will not reduce the nitrogen levels.

Councilor Gerding looked into the cost for a community composting program for the City and was quoted some bin costs. The following costs will be monthly for 64 gallon bins

1 bin = \$69.00	3 bins = \$170.00
2 bins = \$120.00	4 bins = \$221.00

Councilor Gerding mentioned that placing the bin at Public Works or the School would be ideal, and that these would be for residents and not business's because the volume from business's could be too much. Councilor Witham stated that they could put this subject on the next meeting's agenda so they can discuss this further.

#### ADJOURNMENT

***Councilor Gerding made a Motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0 by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

---

Ammy Ramsey, Deputy City Clerk