

City of Concord

Regional Utility Utilization Committee Minutes of January 12, 2021

The Regional Utility Utilization Committee (RUUC) met at 12:00 P.M., on January 12, 2021.

Due to the COVID- 19/Corona Virus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, The Regional Utility Utilization Committee is authorized to meet electronically. The City of Concord will be utilizing the Zoom platform for this electronic meeting. There was no physical location to observe and listen to the meeting, which was authorized pursuant to Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04. All members of the Committee have the ability to communicate during this meeting through the Zoom platform, and the public had access to listen and participate in this meeting as necessary.

Members Present: Councilor Fred Keach, Chair
Councilor Meredith Hatfield
Councilor Linda Kenison

City Staff Members: Ashley Hamilton, Deputy City Clerk
Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Action: In accordance with the Right-to-Know Law, all Committee members indicated they were present and alone.

Present: 3 – Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Hatfield

3. New Business

- a. The Town of Bow's request to extend City water utilities into Bow

Bow's Town Council reached out to City administration and formally requested that Council consider extending city water into the Bow Junction. Specifically, they have identified several commercial businesses that are experiencing difficulty with ground water contamination. These businesses include The Grappone Group, Pitco Frialator and Blue Seal Feed.

- i. Concord currently provides wastewater treatment to this area of Bow Junction and Concord also services a portion of the Town of Boscawen with waste water treatment and water utility services.
- ii. It was noted by Deputy City Manager Baia that Concord is currently providing water services to approximately 12-13 homes in Bow that had

drinking water contamination issues in the 1970's. The homes were under a Federal Government order and received their water from Concord. Covenants are on the property for residential water use only.

- b. Councilor Keach clarified that the goal of this first meeting was to set a regularly scheduled monthly meeting for Committee members to identify relevant issues related to potentially extending the water utility, establish a timeline for collecting data and ultimately make a full recommendation to City Council for consideration.

Committee members unanimously agreed to meet monthly at noon on the second Tuesday of each month.

- c. Councilor Keach outlined and defined 4 categories for Committee consideration:

Step 1: Complete a City water resource evaluation to help the Committee determine if there are enough resources to share or not so they can answer the following:

- What are the current water resources?
- What are future water consumption demand estimates?
- What are environmental impacts of climate change and how will it affect future resources?

Step 2: Determine the Economic impact to Concord.

Some practical and political concerns needing to consider relate to some perceptions that having water as an economic advantage for development. Is that something Concord wants to possibly give up?

Step 3: If there are enough resources and political will to do it, the Committee would need to tackle what an economic model would look like, how it would be structured and how to compensate the City of Concord.

Step 4: Review and determine any Legal issues related to the extension. City Staff and legal expertise would be needed to help the Committee.

Councilor Kenison suggested reaching out to the City's water department for more information, and confirmed her support of the outlined items and agreed with the method of the Committee collecting research and making a proposal to City Council.

Councilor Hatfield noted that Nashua owns Pennichuck Water that services areas outside of the City of Nashua, so they might have staff members and resources to help Concord with the legal aspects.

Councilor Hatfield suggested that a worst-case drought scenario should be taken into consideration for resource analysis so Concord could best determine how to

service their area and possibly others.

Councilor Hatfield also suggested Concord resident outreach on water and conservation could help make use more efficient and free up resources to share. Councilor Keach agreed and noted that it's important for Concord to protect resources whether water is shared or not.

Deputy City Manager Baia gave a brief history on this topic and confirmed that he would coordinate with the Concord Water Department to coordinate available resource data, CIP financials for research analysis and the Bow extension request history to share with the Committee at the next meeting.

Councilor Keach reiterated that his goal and purpose for the Committee is to fact find, collect data, and propose a recommendation to City Council, so they can discuss the political issues and sensitives surrounding this topic.

- d. It was determined that a timeline for the Committee's data collection and analysis is unknown at this time and will be revisited once more information on the available resources is known.

4. **Public Comment** – No public comments were presented.
5. **Other Discussion Items** – No additional items were discussed.
6. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 12:30 P.M.

Action: Councilor Keach moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Hatfield and unanimously passed with a roll call vote.

Yes: 3 – Councilor Keach, Councilor Kenison, Councilor Hatfield