

**Town of Auburn  
Board of Selectmen  
February 25, 2015**

**Selectmen Present:** Russell Sullivan, James Headd & Richard Eaton

**Also Present:** James & Beatrice Blute, Donna Doyle, Erik & Jessica Wallin, Toni Bartlett, Chris & April Plantier, Cottage Ave. Residents; David Paris & Guy Chabot, Manchester Water Works Mike Dross, Road Agent; Carrie Rouleau-Cote, Building Inspector; Alan Cote, Linda Dross, Greg Santuccio, Residents; Kathryn Lafond, Recording Secretary

Mr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Appointments with the Board**

Meeting with Cottage Avenue Residents Regarding Broken Water Main

Mr. Sullivan indicated that the intent of this meeting is to get all parties into one room to discuss immediate and long term resolution options regarding the water main on Cottage Avenue. Mr. Sullivan confirmed with Manchester Water Works representatives that the water main is broke 30 or 40 feet off Route 121 and with Road Agent Dross that there is approximately 4 to 5 feet of frost in the roadways. Mr. Cabot informed the Board that there are 9 houses on the road, one home has a private well, and one home is connected to the water main on Paradise Lane; that leaves 7 households effected by the broken water main, # 5, 15, 17, 18, 23, 25 and 27. Mr. Paris introduced himself as Director at Manchester Water Works and Mr. Chabot, as Professional Engineer who deals with installation and repair. Mr. Paris explained that the water main is a private line that the property owners at the time had installed in 1949. At the request of the property owners the Water Board at the time gave the property owners permission to put in a private line as opposed to Manchester Water Works putting in a line to connect to city water, this was common during that time in Manchester and Goffstown as well. Mr. Chabot indicated that Paradise Lane is in the same boat with the line being installed in 1939, the property owners have since replaced the private line. The lines are grandfathered so Manchester Water Works is ok with this option. Mr. Paris went on to note that these private lines are private property, Manchester Water Works received a call at 2:00 a.m. on Tuesday that there was a leak and shut the water off to prevent further damage. Mr. Chabot stated that if it was summer time a bypass could be run from the fire hydrant as a temporary means of restoring water to the homes but in winter the water will freeze, so the only option at this time is for the homeowners to repair the line and look into a permanent fix in the spring. The residents of Cottage Avenue proceeded to ask Mr. Paris and Mr. Chabot a variety of questioned regarding what they pay and the services Manchester Water Works provides. Mrs. Wallin indicated that her sister on Allen Avenue is connected to a new Manchester Water Works pipe on Neil Avenue and their bills are the same. Mrs. Wallin expressed that the homeowners on Cottage Ave. should be getting a discount as they have a private pipe. Mr. Wallin indicated that he was never informed of the private pipe when they were purchasing the home. Mr. Wallin referenced a franchise agreement from 2000 that allows Manchester Water Works to extend water into Auburn, there is no mention of private lines in it. Mr. Paris explained that the franchise agreement only enables Manchester Water Works to extend into Auburn. Mr. Paris stated that Manchester Water Works does not have a problem with extending a main onto Cottage Ave for a cost. Mr. Plantier asked why the \$48,000.00. Mr. Paris indicated that is only

an approximately cost. Mr. Plantier noted that a contractor quotes \$6000 to fix the line and discussed perhaps putting in a well. Mr. Sullivan stated that replacing the line or putting in private wells or other options need to be talked about amongst the property owners for the future, his current concern is resolving a temporary means to restore water to the homes as quickly as possible. Mr. Sullivan confirmed that in June when there was a leak the Road Agent dug up the area so that the line could be patched by a plumber that the property owners paid for. Mr. Dross stated that was correct. Ms. Bartlett noted that she has four children at home to take care off, many of the home owners on Cottage Ave do not have funds available and asked if there was any help for them, grants, etc. Another resident asked if welfare was an option. Mr. Sullivan indicated that Ms. Lafond is the town's welfare administrator and that is handled on a case by case basis. Mr. Cote stated that there may be Community Development Block Grants available. Ms. Lafond also passed out information regarding USDA Rural Development Home Repair grants for the home owners to look into. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote noted that this is not the first incident with this pipe, there have been several in the past years there needs to be permanent resolution. Mr. Sullivan agreed. The residents of Cottage Ave. proceeded to ask Mrs. Rouleau-Cote about well installation. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote stated that installing a private well could be an option, other options include repairing the existing line and hoping the repair lasts, replacing the line with an improved material like Paradise Lane did, or petitioning the Water Commission to extend a line onto Cottage Ave. Mr. Dross asked if Manchester Water Works would allow the residents to install another 2 inches of line. Mr. Chabot stated yes, the residents could and they would still own the line. Mrs. Rouleau-Cote directed a question to Manchester Water Works, asking if the residents did petition for the line to be extended onto Cottage Ave. would there be additional charges for service from the line to the houses. Mr. Chabot spoke to the installation and the hope that the lines from house to the shut off would be copper; Manchester Water Works owns to the shut off. Mr. Chabot stated that the only option at this point is for the currently line to be fixed if only temporarily. Mr. Sullivan asked what can the town do short term to help restore water to the residents. Mr. Eaton asked Mr. Dross if digging the area was a possibility. Mr. Dross indicated that there is probably not a lot of frost in the area due to the leak, the area is in the grass off to the side of the road. Mr. Eaton reiterated that the line needs to be fixed and then the residents need to determine what they want to do regarding a permanent resolution. Mr. Eaton continued that installation of a well can cost \$5000 to \$8000, which per household could be a similar cost to have Manchester Water Works extend a line, so the homeowners should weigh their options. Mrs. Wallin indicated that they don't have money to do either option at this point. Mr. Sullivan acknowledged that the homeowners have a lot of homework to do. Mr. Headd noted that the town could dig the hole for them as was done before. Mr. Cote stated that he empathized with the residents on Cottage Avenue and does not disagree with a decision of the Board to conduct the digging for the residents but this is the third time expending public funds on private property he would like the Board to make sure they don't continually do so. Mr. Sullivan agreed that he would be in favor of authorizing Mr. Dross to dig the hole so that the residents can get a plumber to fix the pipe, and encouraged the residents to collaborate to determine a permanent resolution.

***Mr. Headd moved to authorize Road Agent, Mike Dross to expedite digging and backfilling a hole to enable a plumber of the Cottage Avenue property owners choosing to repair the broken water as discussed; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; All were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.***

***Mr. Headd moved to adjourn; Mr. Eaton seconded the motion; all were in favor, the public meeting ended at 6:46 P.M.***