

**Town of New Scotland**  
**Special Town Board Meeting**  
**4/27/2018**

The following Town Officials were in attendance:

Supervisor:	Douglas LaGrange
Councilperson:	Adam Greenberg Patricia Snyder
Town Clerk:	Diane Deschenes
Absent: Councilperson:	William Hennessy Daniel Leinung

**1. Call to Order**

Supervisor LaGrange called the meeting to order at 9:50 AM. This is a special meeting in regard to a valve totally separate from the site that Keller is working on for the main replacement. When Rural Water was here and we did some quick testing protection, he felt that this hydrant had a leak somewhere near it. We noticed at the time that the valve had been apparently hit by a car. It is in a ditch. The hydrant is just above it and then there is an embankment there. It appears that somebody probably hit it at one point because the valve itself was bent over. Supervisor LaGrange was watching it over the last few weeks before Keller started, and he noticed at one point that he could see what appeared to be a modest amount of bubbles coming up next to it. Shortly after that, inside the valve had a cap on it and then holes to stick a tool in to lift off the cap so you can shut the valve off. There was water coming up inside it. He told Wayne about it and said that while Keller is here ask him for a price on that just in case we need to replace it. We then sent Mr. Hensel down late last week, and he straightened it up, did some work on it, and determined that it was broken and couldn't be used. The valve itself had to be replaced and hopefully not the hydrant. That is when he asked Highway Superintendent Guyer on Monday to fashion a price and approximation of what it would cost if the Highway Department assisted the DPW in replacing it. They are all a little hesitant because they don't do a valve replacement regularly. They felt it would take the good part of a whole day, so Highway Superintendent Guyer scoped out what it has cost to do a leak in the past. Here Commissioner LaChappelle, Superintendent Guyer, and Mr. Hensel thought the better part of a whole day to do it. Keller will probably take about half a day. That is why Keller was a little cheaper than our estimations. It also impacts the neighborhood for less time with the water main shut off.

Commissioner LaChappelle noticed what appeared to be a potential leak in a person's yard. It is the first house on the right as you go past the firehouse onto Unionville-Feura Bush Road from Feura Bush toward Unionville. There is a log cabin up on the hill. There is apparently a leak there, so he has written a letter and is hand delivering that to the owners. He already talked to them about it. They have to dig that up because it's apparently something on their lateral. These are two more situations that go to the combined losses for the district that we are hopefully getting addressed immediately along with the big situation.

Supervisor LaGrange asked Attorney Naughton to draw up an addendum to the contract with Keller.

Councilperson Greenberg had a question about the pricing. He said that we know how much the valve costs. Two flagmen, one truck, and a backhoe would be there which would be four highway employees there. We need to bring in gravel. Councilperson Greenberg was worried that it would cost less to hire a contractor than to do these things in-house. He wonders why we do anything in-house if that's the case. Supervisor LaGrange said that that's probably because the contractor is mobilized and he has the equipment there. It will take him a lot less time because it is something that they do whereas we don't do it that often. We have rarely had to replace a whole valve itself. It's halfway between Route 32 and Fissette Drive. Fissette is where they start with the new pipe and the valve and run it up toward the direction of LaChappelle's house.

There was a house at the corner of Fissette and Unionville-Feura Bush Road that we found was hooked up that had a meter taken out at one time. The water was re-hooked up sometime over the past couple of years. In their travels, they found that this was happening and the owners hadn't been billed at all. They are about to pay a \$1,400 bill toward the district for water application, new meter, and previous use. Mr. Hensel took the meter out because the gentleman who lived there had a well. He didn't want to pay a minimum charge for water because he was satisfied with his well, so he asked Mr. Hensel to take the meter out. Mr. Hensel took the meter out, set it aside in the basement anticipating that the man or someone else would want it reinstalled eventually. The man died, somebody bought the house, and they claim that their plumber must have hooked it up and they

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didn't realize it. Now they realize it and they are going to pay the back charge. When it was hooked up we had already had a decommissioned reading for the meter so we knew the numbers on it. They subsequently used about 52,000 gallons over the past couple of years.

Councilperson Greenberg stated that, to get back to the purpose of this special meeting, a concern that he has about this change order is that he doesn't want it to be used as an excuse to why the contractor was not finished by April 30. He doesn't want the contractor to say that we made them do the other valve job that cost them a day and that's why they didn't finish by April 30, thereby driving up the engineering costs. Any main work has to be observed by our engineer. Laterals don't have to be but main work does.

Councilperson Snyder said that her impression was that someone from the Water Department went around on a regular basis and observed the water mains looking for any irregularities, etc. She is not faulting anybody, but it seems as if this one was hit by a car and no one noticed it. The other one that was leaking on somebody's property seems to have been missed too. Are we being vigilant enough? Supervisor LaGrange stated that Ryan Greene is still getting up to speed on a lot of things. Having a second person has allowed him to go out and scope out valves and things like that. He is also studying so that he gets his certifications. That is one of the reasons that Supervisor LaGrange would like to consider for next year's budget the software to GPS all of the valves and get a record of when the water department goes out. They should be going out and exercising the valves on occasion to make sure they are working. We have just been through winter so we wouldn't normally do it then, but that will be something that they do regularly. With Feura Bush they're observation focus has been on anything and everything because of the issues we have had there, but we should be doing that on Swift Road, Font Grove, and everywhere else. We are getting to that point little by little, but there is a lot going on daily than just that. It will be done, though.

Councilperson Greenberg said that he would follow up on that. While the focus was on Feura Bush, a leak was still missed there. Once the weather broke, Mr. Hensel checked it out more thoroughly. This is another reason Supervisor LaGrange wants to get the new GPS software. It not only categorizes where all the valves are, but it has a leak detection component. It gets rid of some of the "white noise" like passing cars, etc. It's a lot more definitive than someone's infrequent listening.

Councilperson Snyder suggested that there be a schedule of when the Water Department goes out and what observations they make. She would be interested in knowing their schedule, where they have looked, and the notations of the observations they have made. She also requested seeing a demo of how the GPS software works.

**RESOLUTION 2018-101**

Supervisor LaGrange offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolved that Change Order #1, in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A**, in the total sum of \$3,163.00 is hereby approved, and the Supervisor shall be, and hereby is, authorized to sign the change order, and the budget for the project is hereby increased accordingly.

This is a change order to our contract with Wm. J. Keller & Sons Construction Corp. This will take the original contracted amount of \$104,531.00 and increase it by \$3,163.00 for a total contracted amount of \$104,844.00. This is outside of the project area that was originally contracted to be replaced.

The Board did pass a resolution with the intent to go to bond on Feura Bush's projects of up to \$150,000. This will still be below that even when we eventually determine what we are going to use for an emergency notification of pumps running too long which is absent from the district. We are still well within our budget, and that will also be reflected in the cost to individuals in the district. We determined that even with \$150,000 bonded, once their other bonds close out in the next couple of years, this comes on and it will be less than they are paying now for those bonds.

Councilperson Greenberg seconded the motion. All present and voting aye, the motion carried (3 Ayes).

**Adjourn**

Supervisor Lagrange made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Snyder. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

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Diane R. Deschenes, Town Clerk