

DRAFT

PRESENT: R. P. McDermott, Chairman; M. Kasprzak, Vice Chairwoman, L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator; R. Dirsa, Police Chief, J. M. Lord, Fire Chief

NOT PRESENT: L. M. Smith, Selectman

MEETING WITH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF NH (PSNH) REPRESENTATIVES: Carol Burke, Catalina Celentano, Sandra Gagnon and John Casey were present. This meeting was scheduled to review advance notification needs identified as a result of emergency work conducted by PSNH in Town on Friday, October 17.

Each PSNH representative explained its role and responsibilities associated with utility work resulting from an urgent or emergent need as compared to work needed for maintenance. A review of the steps taken by PSNH to provide notification to municipalities in non-emergency situations also took place. Questions raised and answered included matters relating to timing of work and proper, timely and advance notification to public officials of Hampton Falls, the potential need for permitting due to wetlands or other conservation matters, issues relating to closing down areas or roads and scheduling and delivery of equipment and vehicles, etc.

PSNH representatives explained that the efforts of the week of October 13 were a result of an emergency overseen by a regulated industry; direction to PSNH came from ISO New England. R. Dirsa expressed concern that no Town official had been notified and that the work had become a public safety matter without the benefit of information. It was noted that the Town receives timely notification from the Seabrook Nuclear Plant as well as Unitil and that the Town of Hampton Falls is looking for the same courtesy from Public Service Company of NH. It was further indicated by Town Officials that although advance notice is important, that details of the work required is not; basic information to establish a starting point is needed. The opportunity to address the needs and concerns relating to safety associated with a public place or road and to provide basic information to the citizens of the Town is priority.

The Chiefs and Board members expressed concerns relating to the lack of timely notification, the public and recreational area in question and the indication of shutting down areas or road(s). Suggestion was made to share points of contact information between the Town of Hampton Falls and PSNH to include an identified multi-level process of notification (preliminary information to emergency specifics).

A letter will be drafted to PSNH for the Board of Selectmen's signature outlining the points of contact for the Town of Hampton Falls to include a request for the points of contact for PSNH and timely notification beginning now and for future utility work.

It was explained by PSNH that additional work is planned to be conducted and that notification will be made to the Town and residents along the roadway to the work site. It was confirmed that all equipment and vehicles will be removed from the site once work is finalized to include the timber mats currently in place. PSNH representatives indicated that a portion of the road may need to be closed for safety purposes during a portion of the work.

As a separate matter, the Board informed PSNH of a concern with the condition of the base of a pole (Pole #5?) and requested that PSNH review the area.

Thanks were extended to all by all present and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.