

LACONIA WATER DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
January 20, 2026

Chairman Brian Wolf called the regular meeting of the Laconia Water Department Board of Water Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the conference room at the Water Treatment Plant. In attendance was Chairman Brian Wolf, Commissioner Steve Walsh, Commissioner John Tracy, Ex-Officio member Acting Public Works Director Nate Guerette, Ex-Officio member Councilman Mike Conant, Superintendent Ben Crawford and Clerk Joanie Barnett and Accountant Dianna Black.

A motion was made by Steve Walsh, seconded by Nate Guerette, to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026. The vote was unanimous.

A motion was made by Steve Walsh, seconded by Nate Guerette, to approve the Accounts Payable and the Financial Statement dated January 20, 2026. Ben reviewed Accounts Payable items. The vote to approve was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENT – Ben reviewed standing of the Operating Budget for the first half of Fiscal Year 2026 along with a comparison of December FY2025 TO FY2026. In highlights, he explained unexpected costs, along with two retirement timebank payouts, affecting higher percentages for December that will not likely continue into the spring. Nate asked if the board had a schedule for rate increases. Ben stated that the board expects the new rate to be in place for three years, unless a major expense requires reconsideration. Brian explained to the new members, that at the October City Council meeting, the department was deemed "well capitalized"; the council questioned if it was "too well capitalized". Since that meeting, the board determined that six months' expenses will be the standard to follow.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

SUCCESSION PLAN- No new discussion.

GRANTS- No new discussion.

LIENS FOR WATER & SEWER BILLS- No new discussion.

BRIARCREST PUMP STATION- Ben explained that he and Eric are providing more information to the engineering firm.

SYSTEM IMPAIRMENT/WATER MAIN PROJECTS – Ben stated that there was a water main break last week at the intersection of Cyrus Lane and Morrill Street in Gilford. This is a 1960's era of development which will need replacement consideration in Capital Improvements.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION - Steve inquired if an RFQ for a drainage study of Paugus Bay had been sent. Ben thought that the Lake Winnipesaukee Alliance was handling it, but he will inquire with the director to move that forward.

ELECTRONIC BILLING – Ben and Brian met to discuss billing expense reduction ideas.

BUDGET FY2027- Ben will forward the proposed budget to the board members. Brian asked each member to submit questions in advance of the next meeting. He also requested each member to scale the past objectives and what should be given priority from the perspective of this new commission.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1467 LAKESHORE ROAD – Mike reviewed the Gilford NH documentation provided to him about the remediation. Ben did a review of the conditions and concerns. The property owner is responsible for the failed culvert. DES will not spend more money until the culvert is replaced; the permit has an expiration in 2027. The current testing is performed twice annually. It reflects a 70% drop, but at 90 PPB it is far greater than the 5 PPB limit. Ben got a quote for monthly testing at two sites along Black Brook at a cost of \$1000 per month to know if the contaminants are heading towards the city water intake.

Ex-officio member Mike Conant exited the meeting at 6:45 pm.

OBJECTIVES – Brian spoke to the board about creating new objectives for the board with many new members. Brian asked the board to consider a change in priorities based upon a consensus of the board, such as a contingency plan for catastrophic risks. Nate suggests engineered planning for these emergencies. Ben stated that in addition to funds to update the metering system, the budget may need to include consulting and engineering fees.

No further business: a motion was made by Steve Walsh, seconded by John Tracy, to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. The vote was unanimous.



Joanie Barnett, Clerk



Authorized Signature

Date