



State of New Hampshire
WATER WELL BOARD



Roger B. Skillings, C.W.D. – P.I., *Water Well Contractor*
David R. Hunt, *Water Well Contractor*
Kelly M. Dobrowolski, *Pump Installer*
Richard P. Schofield, P.G., *Staff*

Steven Garside, *Technical Driller*
Rene Pelletier, P.G., *Dept. of Environmental Services*
Frederick H. Chormann, Jr., P.G., *State Geologist*
Steve Guercia, Certified Operator, *Public Member*

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NH WATER WELL BOARD MINUTES

August 23, 2016

A meeting of the New Hampshire Water Well Board (“Board”) was held on August 23, 2016, in the Department of Environmental Services Building in rooms 112 and 113, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301.

Present were: David Hunt, Chairman
Rene Pelletier, Secretary
Board Members: Roger Skillings, Kelly Dobrowolski, Frederick Chormann, and Steve Garside
NHDES Staff: Richard Schofield

Mr. Hunt brought the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Skillings, and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the Board voted to approve the Minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting as written.

Complaint

Druan / Contoocook Artesian Well Company

The Board considered a complaint received by Ms. Ellen Druan against Contoocook Artesian Well Company (“Contoocook Well”) regarding a replacement well pump installed at the Druan property in Antrim, NH.

The complaint stated that she had been out of water since last fall and continued to be without water threw out the winter and into the summer. She had called Contoocook Well to repair the system, but they informed her that the pump was no longer under warranty. Ms. Druan called several other pump service companies, and they all said the pump wires were broken (chaffed) down the well. Apparently, Ms. Druan did not hire any of the service contractors to repair the pump system believing the pump was still under warranty.

Mr. Schofield reported that he had visited the Druan property on August 11, 2016, and inspected the well. He had removed the well cover and found the wires to be intact at the wellhead, however someone had disconnected them at some point in the past, and re-connected the wires using wire nuts. Mr. Schofield reported that the static water level in the well was about 10 feet below the ground surface. Photographs of the wellhead were provided for review by the Membership. Mr.

Schofield stated that he found no violations of the Board's rules on the original replacement pump installation at the wellhead.

Mr. Richard Patenaude and Jeffrey Coppo attended the meeting, representing Contoocook Well. Ms. Druan was not present at the meeting.

Chairman Hunt invited Mr. Patenaude to provide comment. Mr. Patenaude submitted a written statement, and explained that the replacement pump was installed on June 14, 2012. They have a one year warranty on the pump. Ms. Druan had first contacted Contoocook Well in January 2016 about her pump system not operating. On the original pump replacement Contoocook Well had some difficulty getting paid for the job, although Ms. Druan did pay for the work.

The Board discussed the time period between the installation of the pump in June 2012 and the pump system failure in the fall of 2015, which was more than 3 years. The Board also noted that there were no violations cited in the complaint, or reported by Mr. Schofield.

Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier, and seconded by Mr. Skillings, the Board voted unanimously to dismiss the complaint against Contoocook Well.

Licensing

License Applicants

The Board considered an application from Scott Hollabaugh, doing business as S.W. Cole Explorations, LLC, for a Technical drilling license. Mr. Schofield reported that consideration on the application was tabled at the June 9 meeting because it was received the day of the meeting and was incomplete. Mr. Hollabaugh was previously the qualified individual for Miller Engineering and Testing (Miller Eng.), and has notified the Board that he is no longer employed by Miller Eng., and is employed by S.W. Cole Explorations, LLC.

Scott Hollabaugh and Chad Michaud, P.E., Chief Operating Officer, and Executive Vice President of S.W. Cole Explorations, LLC, attended the meeting. The Board questioned Mr. Michaud about the ongoing geotechnical drilling being done for the Northern Pass Transmission project, and recent purchase of Great Works and Test Boring Inc., (Great Works).

Mr. Michaud explained that S.W. Cole Explorations, LLC, believed the Board's rules had an exemption for geo-technical borings, but when they became aware of the licensing issues between the Board and Great Works and Test Boring, Inc., they made the decision to file an application for licensure. Mr. Michaud also explained that S.W. Cole Explorations, LLC only purchased the Great Works assets, not the business.

Chairman Hunt asked Mr. Michaud if S.W. Cole Explorations, LLC, had completed any test wells or environmental monitoring wells since they started working in New Hampshire. Mr. Michaud responded they had only done geo-technical borings in New Hampshire.

Upon motion by Mr. Skillings, and seconded by Mr. Pelletier, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

The Board considered an application from Peter Michaud, doing business as Terracon Consultants, Inc., for a Technical drilling license. Mr. Schofield reported that the application was

complete. Upon motion by Mr. Garside, and seconded by Mr. Chormann, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

The Board considered an application from Geoffrey Terragni, doing business as Al Terry Plumbing and Heating, for a pump installer license. Mr. Schofield reported that the application was complete. Upon motion by Mr. Pelletier, and seconded by Mr. Skillings, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

Renewals

Mr. Schofield reported on the number of 2016-17 license renewals and late renewals processed.

Well Completion Reports

Contractor Responses

Mr. Schofield reported on the responses from the four licensees who did not respond to the Board's April 11, 2016 letter, and were invited to the August 23 meeting.

Lisa Hinsley attended on behalf of Hinsley Wells Inc., d/b/a Sargent Artesian Wells and addressed the Board. Mrs. Hinlsey explained that they had a small business and were struggling to keep up with the demands of running a small business, with not enough time, or man power to get it all done. They had hired a family member to help with the office work and one to the priorities will be to get reports filed on time.

The Board considered the number of previous violations of the reporting requirement for Sargent Artesian Wells. Leah McKenna reported that a Notice of Findings was sent in 2008 in an effort to obtain well completion reports, and in 2012 DES sent a Letter of Deficiency for non-reporting.

The Board voted to place Sargent Artesian Wells on a probationary status for one year. The Membership thanked Mrs. Hinsley for her appearance.

Mr. Schofield reported that Mathew Bovenzi of Geosearch Inc., reported 23 wells and 101 abandoned well registration reports for wells in 2015 along with letters of explanation for each submittal. Upon request by the Board, Leah McKenna reported that DES had sent Geosearch Inc., a Notice of Findings in 2011 to obtain well completion reports, and closed the matter with a Notice of Past Violation. The Board agreed it was only one occurrence of a violation, and voted to accepted the reports.

Mr. Schofield read a letter from Richard Faxon, Sr., stating that all reports from Faxon's Artesian Wells and Pumps were reported electronically, and on time for wells constructed in 2015. The Board took no action because the company was no longer licensed.

Probation Report

The Board reviewed the probation report provided by staff for well completion reports received by the two licensees on probation. The report included wells constructed from April 1 to June 30, 2016.

Mr. Schofield informed the Board that Lucy Faxon had filed a notice of appeal of the Board's notice of refusal to renew Mrs. Faxon's water well contractor license, No. 1768. The Board instructed staff to schedule a hearing.

Administrative Rules

The Board reviewed the testimony from the July 8, 2016 public hearing, comments from the Office of Legislative Services staff, and staff's draft amendments to the final proposal.

DES Enforcement Report

Leah McKenna, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau, Enforcement Supervisor, presented a report for the Board of enforcement actions initiated by DES for violations of RSA 482-B and the rules of the Board, We 100 - 1000. The report included a general overview of the violations, DES actions, and current status of specific cases handled mostly over the last two years.

Mr. Schofield reported that the Board received a submittal of well completion reports from Richard Faxon, License No. 364, for wells drilled in in 2015 and 2016. The Board discussed the fact that Mr. Faxon's license renewal was refused, and the 30 day period for appeal had passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Rene Pelletier
Water Well Board Secretary