



City of Keene

*New Hampshire*

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES,  
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE  
AGENDA  
Council Chambers B  
July 8, 2020  
5:30 PM**

Janis O. Manwaring, Chair  
Michael Giacomo, Vice Chair  
Randy L. Filiault  
Bettina A. Chadbourne  
Robert C. Williams

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1. REPORT OUT: Eclipse Management Group – Construction on City Property and Eclipse Hockey at Keene ICE
  2. Water Supply and Water Conservation Measures - Operations Manager and Assistant Public Works Director

**MORE TIME ITEMS:**

- A. Katie Schwerin – Proposal for Permanent Public Art Installation – Airport Property
- B. Councilor Philip Jones – Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam on Arch Street and Communication from Robert Malay/Keene School District – Maintenance of the Wilson Pond Dam

Due to the COVID-2019 State of Emergency, the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee will be holding its meeting remotely using the web-based program, Zoom. Members of the public will be able to access this public meeting through a variety of options, described below. If you encounter any issues accessing this meeting, please call 603-757-0622 during the meeting. To access the meeting online navigate to *Zoom.us* and enter the Webinar ID # 85751710930. To listen via telephone call 877-853- 5257 and enter the Meeting ID: Webinar ID: 857 5171 0930 When the meeting is open for public comment, callers may press \*9 if interested in commenting or asking questions.

Non Public Session  
Adjournment



City of Keene  
*Transmittal Form*

July 6, 2020

**TO:** Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee

**FROM:** Aaron Costa, Operations Manager & Tom Moran, Assistant Public Works Director

**THROUGH:** Elizabeth A. Dragon, City Manager

**ITEM:** 2.

**SUBJECT:** Water Supply and Water Conservation Measures - Operations Manager and Assistant Public Works Director

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Move that the Municipal, Services, Infrastructure and Facilities Committee recommend the declaration of a Stage 1 - Water Conservation Alert as per Section 98-74.1 of the City Code of Ordinances.

**BACKGROUND:**

The State of New Hampshire issued a statement and map on July 2, 2020 showing the Keene area has been categorized by the United States Drought Monitor as being in a "Moderate Drought". The projected precipitation over the next 60 days does not show much relief.

The City has two surface water supplies: Babbidge and Woodward Reservoirs. Babbidge Reservoir holds approximately 145 million gallons of water and current levels indicate that approximately 96 million gallons remain. Woodward Reservoir is currently under construction and has been partially drained; therefore, the City does not have access to its full capacity. In addition, the West Street and Court Street wellfields are beginning to show the effects of the dry conditions by lower than normal groundwater levels observed in the surrounding monitoring wells.

The City's current daily demand for water is approximately 2.5 million gallons per day (MGD). On June 17, 2020, West Street Well #1 was put into production and on July 1, 2020 Court Street Well #4 was put into production. Combined, the two-groundwater wells will produce approximately 1.6 MGD with the reservoirs supplying the remaining demand. The groundwater sources have not been in production since late 2019 and will help conserve the remaining water in Babbidge Reservoir. Staff will continue weekly monitoring of the reservoirs and groundwater levels and will report to Council as necessary.

Section 98-74 of the City Code allows the City Council to declare a Water Conservation Alert (Stage 1) that requests voluntary reduction in water use when there is an available raw water volume of 120 calendar days or less. Actions involved in this Stage may include, but are not limited to use of water during non-peak demand hours, reduction of outdoor watering, encouraging use of local vehicle washing facilities that have wash water recycling systems, and other water conservation activities.

The alert can be upgraded to a Water Shortage Watch (Stage 2) when the storage is reduced to 90 days. The Council can require residential, commercial and industrial customers to reduce their water use by 20 percent compared to the previous year along with whatever mandatory restrictions it deems necessary, including

odd/even watering, prohibition of vehicle washing, and reduction or prohibition of automatic sprinkler systems.

The Water Storage Watch can be upgraded to a Water Shortage Warning (Stage 3) if the stored supply is less than 30 days. The Council can then impose more stringent requirements including watering ban, 50% reduction in water use, and mandatory reduction in commercial water use.

Therefore, staff moves that the Municipal Services, Facilities and Infrastructure Committee recommend the City Council declare a Water Conservation Alert per section 98-74 of the City Code. This includes voluntary reduction in lawn watering, watering gardens, encouraging use of local vehicle washing facilities that have wash water recycling systems, and other water conservation activities.