

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 15th, 2019 Town Hall

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Greg Ulirsch, ATSDR Atlanta, Gary Pearlman, ATSDR Boston, Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Portsmouth Public Works, Denis Hebert, Planning Board Chair, John Klanchesser, Fire Engineer, , Craig Daigle, Transfer Station Superintendent, Residents: Emily Savinelli, Alex Jacuch, Lulu Pickering, Samara Robertson, Mindi Messmer, Representatives from Senator Shaheen's and Hanson's offices and John Chamberlain, Karen Anderson, Project Assistant, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:**

K. Latchaw asked for several changes to the minutes.

**M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of April 8th, 2019 with the changes that K. Latchaw suggested. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Public Water Health Consultation/Questions and Answers-Gary Pearlman- (ATSDR-Boston) and Greg Ulirsch-(ATSDR-Atlanta)**

ATSDR just released a Health Consultation for the Pease Tradeport Public Water System. A Health Consultation is an evaluation of available data from testing such as; water samples, blood samples, drinking water and children. The report is not research, it is using the existing data to make conclusions and recommendations. After the report is released, there is a 60-day public comment period. The public has until June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 to make comments on this report.

Comments can be made by email at [ATSDRRecordsCenter@cdc.gov](mailto:ATSDRRecordsCenter@cdc.gov) or by mail to:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
ATTN: Records Center  
Re: Pease Tradeport Public Water System  
4770 Buford Highway, NE (MS F-09)  
Chamblee, GA 30341

**Summary of Key Findings**

- Drinking water from the Pease Tradeport PWS between January 1993 (when Pease got their first tenants) through May 2014 (when the Haven Well was shut down) could have increased the risk for harmful health effects to Pease International Tradeport workers and children attending the childcare centers.

Other possible sources of exposure to users of the Pease Tradeport PWS include food and consumer products. Those could increase the risk for harmful effects beyond the risk from the drinking water exposures alone.

- Exposure to perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) can depress the immune response, increase cholesterol, slow growth and development, and cause liver damage.
- Community members, particularly mothers exposed to PFAS from the Pease Tradeport PWS, have concerns about the possible health effects of PFAS exposures to infants who breastfeed. Based on available scientific information, ATSDR concludes that the health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding outweigh the risks associated with PFAS in breast milk.
- Consuming water from the Pease Tradeport PWS after May 2014 is not expected to cause people harm.

### **ATSDR Recommendations to Agencies**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), and the U.S. Air Force (USAF) do the following:

- Continue their studies to better describe PFAS groundwater contamination at the site and monitor the Pease Tradeport PWS for any changes in PFAS amounts
- Continue PFAS removal from the Pease Tradeport PWS and set up a long-term plan to reduce PFAS to the lowest possible levels
- Continue to provide health education regarding PFAS in drinking water to residents who might be exposed, other community members, and health professionals in the site area

### **ATSDR Community Recommendations**

- Persons who have had long-term exposure to PFAS should be aware of ways to reduce exposures. To learn more, visit:  
[http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/docs/pfas_fact_sheet.pdf).
- Continue to breastfeed babies, even if you have been exposed to PFAS. More than 20 years of research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that breastmilk nourishes infants and protects them from illness. A woman's decision to breastfeed is an individual choice—one that is made after considering many different factors. ATSDR's health consultation provides information that might help in this decision-making process.
- If you are concerned about exposure you or your family might have had, talk to your health care provider. ATSDR is available to consult with any health care provider, as needed.

## NEXT Steps

- ATSDR will present the findings of this report and provide health education information related to PFAS in drinking water to the affected residents, community members, and health professionals in the site area.
- The USAF is working with the City of Portsmouth, NHDES, and EPA to test a treatment system for the Pease Tradeport PWS. This treatment system will reduce exposure to PFAS from the system's three main source wells. Treated water should continue to be sampled and the system adjusted to prevent exposure above the EPA lifetime health advisory and to reduce exposure to all PFAS as much as possible. EPA has established the health advisory levels at 0.07 parts per billion
- ATSDR will continue to work with the Pease International Tradeport Community Assistance Panel (CAP) to help understand community concerns and gather input to enhance the understanding of the health effects of PFAS exposure.
- ATSDR is assessing the most appropriate and effective designs for a multi-site PFAS health study to look at the relationship between PFAS exposure and health outcomes. As a foundation for the multi-site health study, ATSDR is preparing for exposure assessments in communities near current and former military installations. ATSDR is also planning a "proof of concept" health study of children and adults exposed to PFAS-contaminated drinking water at the Pease International Tradeport. The study will also evaluate associations between PFAS levels in blood and signs of changes in the body. Those changes will be examined using biomarkers, which can include examining changes in lipids, kidney or thyroid function, and the development of specific diseases.

## Bottom Line

- The health consultation concluded that Pease International Tradeport workers and children who attended the childcare centers were exposed to PFAS by drinking contaminated water. The water was supplied to the Pease International Tradeport before the Haven well was shut down in May 2014. Drinking water from the Pease Tradeport PWS during this time might have increased the risk for some harmful health effects. The cancer risk from past exposure to all PFAS in the Pease Tradeport PWS is uncertain.
- Though the Haven well has shut down, there are still low levels of PFAS in the water serving the Pease Tradeport PWS. ATSDR does not expect that consuming water containing low levels of PFAS from the Pease Tradeport PWS (after May 2014) will harm people. However, persons who were exposed to PFAS from the Pease Tradeport Water System in the past should be aware of ways to reduce

exposures to all sources of PFAS is available at  
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/pfas-exposure.html>

**The ATSDR is also releasing another Health Consultation report on the 40 drinking water wells in Newington.** This report will be released in the fall. At that time the ATSDR representatives will be back in the area to answer questions and hear people's comments.

T. Connors commented that he wants the ATSDR to be as concerned about the Newington residents and children who are drinking the water 24/7, as they are about the people drinking the water on Pease.

T. Connors asked why the ATSDR wasn't meeting with the Pease RAD committee? He thought it would be an important group to meet with.

A year or more is considered long term exposure.

K. Anderson explained that a couple of ways to reduce exposure is to keep the dust down and to not scotch guard the furniture.

Mercury levels in fish at the state level is unknown at this time.

J. Klanchesser asked about the expense of the carbon filters that he now has to use because of the high levels in his drinking water. He would like to get reimbursed for this expense. He is also concerned because one of his family members has high cholesterol. He would like to get hooked up the Portsmouth water.

The Selectmen asked M. Roy to write a letter to Roger Walton to address J. Klanchesser's concerns.

M. Marconi asked Brian Goetz how much it would cost for a resident to hook up with Portsmouth water. B. Goetz estimated it would be between \$8,000 and \$10,000, depending on many factors.

E. Savinelli asked if the ATSDR had looked at the new study from Minnesota that looks at breast feeding. G. Ulirsch had not heard anything.

L. Pickering expressed concern that the ATSDR is telling residents that it is ok to drink the water. Newington has been burned twice and people don't believe that the water is ok to drink. The Air Force has picked certain chemicals to be tested for. Why only 16-19 compounds? G. Pearlman explained that the Air Force picked the chemicals. The ATSDR is only studying data that is already out there. Combined exposure to a

mixture of PFOS is more important than the single contaminant. The science is there, but the common sense isn't.

Mindi Messmer of Rye would like an analysis of the fire fighting foam used by the Air Force. We need to understand what is in the foam.

T. Connors thanked Gary Pearlman and Greg Ulirsch for coming to the meeting.

T. Connors called for a ten-minute break.

The meeting was called back to order at 6:57pm.

**Manifest Approval:** M. Marconi moved to approve the manifest for \$119,419.30 dated 4/9/2019. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Adjunct Committee Updates:** This item was tabled until the next meeting

**Pump Repair-Newington Fire Engine #2-2012 Smeal:**

The Selectmen reviewed the 3 quotes submitted for the repair, the recommendation of the Fire Chief and the letter from the Board of Fire Engineers.

**M. Marconi moved to take \$37,500 out of the Replacement and/or Repair of Vehicles Operated by the Fire Department capital Reserve Fund to repair the pump on the 2012 Smeal. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Grounds Care Bid Analysis Review & Award:** M. Marconi moved to award the Grounds Care Bid to JLG landscaping for \$9,490 for 3 years. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor. The Selectmen were pleased that all professional services and work are now put out to bid, and has saved the town money.

**Fox Point Rental Bids Analysis Review & Award:** K. Latchaw recused himself. M. Marconi moved to award the Fox Point Rental to Peter Latchaw who had the high bid of \$1,550. This is a 1-year lease and includes mowing of the grounds and other improvements to the property. T. Connors seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Drone Registrations:**

M. Roy received a call from Sue Smith about town drone regulations. M. Roy found out that there are federal regulations, but nothing for the town currently. M. Marconi thought that there should be town restrictions since we are so close to Pease. M. Roy will work with the Police Chief to explore the possibility of town regulations.

**Fox Point Mountain Bike Usage:** M. Roy received an email from Luanne O'Reilly. She is concerned about mountain bikers using the trails at Fox Point. She mentioned that the trails have bike tracks in them. M. Roy checked the Fox Point regulations and found

that they don't mention the restriction of bicycles on the trails. It only talks about motorized vehicles. The Board thought that some restrictions during mud season would be good for the long-term health of the trails. The Board asked M. Roy to contact the Recreation Committee and ask for their recommendations.

**Eversource Lease Agreement:** The Board is awaiting the completed agreement before disclosing details. K. Latchaw explained that they are in negotiations with a private party. It is expected that all displaced soil for the project will be stored on the leased privately-owned property, not on town property. All fees for leasing this private property will be covered by Eversource. Anything dug up will go onto the leased property. **K. Latchaw moved to authorize the Chair to sign the Eversource lease agreement after it is finalized and reviewed by the town's attorneys. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.**

**Volunteer Dinner Date:** The Board has selected Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, for the volunteer appreciation dinner at the Town Hall.

**Transfer Station Recycling Program Update:**

It was discovered that Troiano was charging the Town for unused containers. The Town received a credit of \$2,000 on the most recent bill. K. Anderson explained that when she compared the pricing of recycling verses regular trash, it definitely was worth it, financially, to continue to recycle. Newington sends 4 to 6 containers a week to EcoMaine for recycling, if the town purchased a compactor it would reduce the number of containers sent to EcoMaine each week and would reduce the yearly cost from \$14,000 to less than \$3,000 per year. The next step would be to get three bids on the compactor, new and refurbished units, purchase versus a lease, service contracts and warranties. T. Connors asked if a reinforced pad was needed? K. Anderson answered no. The compactor comes with a "dog shed" roof, so the contents don't get wet. T. Connors would like to see a compactor in service. K. Anderson suggested that he go over to the Greenland recycle center to look at the compactor there. T. Connors asked Craig Daigle if he is happy with this proposal? C. Daigle thought that it was the right way to go. Recycling is a by product of our lives. The town has saved \$40,000 in 7 years by recycling instead of putting everything in the regular trash. EcoMaine has found markets for everything that we are sending to them. EcoMaine has stated that the Town of Newington has a very low contamination rate. T. Connors would like to see better signage at the transfer station to help train people on recycling correctly. **M. Marconi moved to authorize the Chair to sign the new EcoMaine contract with the second option. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.**

K. Latchaw wanted to make sure that when the town puts out the RFP for the compactor it includes; new, used and leased options a warranty description and a service contract description.

John Chamberlain asked if the transfer staff would have to be increased due to the addition of the compactor. K. Anderson explained that the current staff could absorb the responsibility.

Samara Robertson wanted to know if there would be a back up of residents trying to use the compactor. Craig Daigle didn't think there would be any additional back up.

Denis Hebert wanted to make sure the town has a plan if the compactor breaks.

K. Latchaw asked that "response time for a repair" be added to the RFP language.

**Adjournment:** T. Connors moved to adjourn at 7:38pm. M. Marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy  
Recorder

