

Well Driller's Meeting Minutes
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Location: 286 Water Street, 3rd Floor

Attendees: Commission Members:
Donald Robbins, Certified Geologist, Public Member, Chairman
Frank Hegarty, Master Pump Installer
Joe Gallant, Master Driller
Tom Weddle, Hydrogeologist, Maine Geological Survey, Department of
Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
Dwight Doughty, Jr. Hydrogeologist, Maine DOT
Doris Labranche, Commission Clerk
Legal Counsel: Deanna White, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the
Attorney General

Absent: David Braley, Senior Geologist, Maine CDC and Prevention

Guest(s): Carl Levesque, Well Driller, A-Z Water Systems
Melissa Hackett, Homeowner, Bowdoinham, Maine
Dari Hurley, Coldwell Real Estate Broker
David Philbrook, Independent Well Inspector, Engr. Tech. IV, MeDOT

Minutes prepared by: Doris Labranche, Commission Clerk

PROCEEDINGS:

Don Robbins - Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions were given.

TOPIC: COMPLAINTS

Complaint received: A-Z Water Systems – Mr. Carl Levesque, Owner; Ms. Melissa C. Hackett of Bowdoinham, Homeowner.

Because both parties were present, it was decided to discuss the complaint before reviewing the March minutes.

Fact finding revealed:

- Homeowners contract to build a home was with Custom Built Homes.
- Custom Built Homes had a 'verbal' contract with Mr. Levesque for the well drilling.
- Mr. Levesque sub-contracted the well drilling to Wells Unlimited (verbal agreement).
- Mr. Levesque installed the pump system. He does not hold a PI-M license.
- Mr. Levesque installed the filtration system.
- A 'clay like' sediment sample was distributed by the homeowner.
- April 5th, Mr. Levesque returned to the home to 'flush things out'.
- Homeowner stated that a plumber inspected the boiler. Inspection revealed that the water pressure was too low. No water pressure on the 2nd floor of home.
- Mr. Levesque did not provide any of the requested documentation.
- According to a written (typed) statement from Mr. Levesque; "I conducted a pump test at 132 carding machine rd. in Bowdoinham Me. Well is 180' deep and has a flow rate over a 5 hour test period of 5.5 gpm. The water pump is set at 140'. Static level is 35'." Mr. Levesque stated that casing was 42'.
- The builder took water samples originally.

- The homeowner brought in water test results for distribution. Water test results revealed that the Iron and Manganese were high, but typical to Maine water. Sodium was a little high, no coliform, and no e-coli.
- Mr. Levesque installed a filtration system ‘last summer’.
- Mr. Levesque is a WD-M and PI-J with his father, Willard Levesque, on as part of the company.
- Don Robbins informed Mr. Levesque that “It is a State law that any work done, for over \$3,000, requires a written contract – a state statute through the Attorney General’s Office.”
- Willard Levesque, PI-M to be notified.
- Wells Unlimited to be notified. (Wells Unlimited is out-of-business.)
- Doug Wright is the owner of Wells Unlimited.
- Dari Hurley (family friend of homeowner) – the last conversation from the contractor (Ted), revolved around the possibility of the well collapsing.

DISCUSSION: The discussion revealed the above facts.

MOTION: Frank motioned to send David Philbrook out to inspect and also for Mr. Levesque/Wells Unlimited to provide the necessary supporting documentation by the next meeting.

Ike moved to send David Philbrook to do a complete inspection of the well and the pump system.

2nd BY: Dwight

VOTE: Unanimous

ACTION:

1. David Philbrook will coordinate an inspection with the homeowner. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the inspection.
2. Ike stated that the driller has 30 days to be notified. The original letter was sent on March 19th, 2014. We need that information before April 19th.
3. Notify Doug Wright of Wells Unlimited and Willard Levesque of Willard & Son Pumps in Caribou, that they are part of this complaint, and need to independently provide us with that information within a certain time period.
4. Carl Levesque to research the June 9th 2013 water sample results.
5. Carl Levesque to research ‘JR’s’ full name – if he was the one sitting on the rig.
6. Doris to e-mail David Philbrook the contact info for the parties involved.
7. Reconvene next month when more information is available.
8. Don Robbins to contact the Board of Plumbing and Electrical Board regarding water softeners and water filtration systems regarding license/permits required.
9. Don Robbins to contact Rodney Pratt regarding ‘limited’ license past practices. Clarification needed regarding water filtration systems.
10. Doris to research the Commission’s past minutes regarding limited license for a pump installer regarding the electrical piece.

TOPIC: APPROVAL OF MARCH 2014 MINUTES

DISCUSSION: Dwight motioned to accept the March minutes; Tom seconded the motion. The minutes were reviewed and approved. The vote was unanimous with Ike abstaining due to his absence at the last meeting. Doris will distribute to Commission members and post to the DWP website: www.medwp.com

TOPIC: COMPLAINTS

Status update: Lisa Pulieris of Windham, ME regarding Cindy Killer of Atlantic Water Solutions, Inc.

Fact finding revealed:

- Pump is stuck in the well – cause unknown. Mechanical means required to remove the pump. Probability of something breaking high.
- Atlantic Water Solutions subcontracted the well drilling project.
- Atlantic Water Solutions installed the pump.
- Initial pump installation had issues that resulted in Atlantic replacing the 1st pump.
- Homeowner was not present during David Philbrook's inspection.
- Cindy Killer of Atlantic Water Solutions was present during the inspection with her father Bruce Champney.
- Cindy Killer was invited by Frank Hegarty to attend today's meeting.

DISCUSSION: David Philbrook distributed notes from his inspection conducted on 3/27/2014. The pump was pulled by hand 100+/- feet; it came up easy until the last 30+/- feet. The pump got stuck hard (near the shoe) and would not go back up or down. It could not be moved. It was locked. The pipe was rotated three times but locked up each time. Reconnected pump to pitless. Pump was trying to lift off pitless. Frank held down on T-handle while David turned on the pump. It seated (pitless) and David ran the water for ½ hour and it cleared. Something was catching down in the well. David Philbrook stopped all activity. David is here today for advice from the Commission on how to proceed.

MOTION: Ike moved to send Atlantic Water Solutions to remove the pump. David Philbrook to camera the well, the removal of the pump, and any objects that may come out of the well. If bedrock is the cause of the pump being stuck, that is a natural even, it is not a violation.

2nd BY: Joe

VOTE: Unanimous.

ACTION:

1. David Philbrook will coordinate an inspection with all interested parties.
2. David Philbrook to camera the activities.
3. If the pump is not removed, homeowner to be contacted and informed on the status of things.

Don Robbins: Related to this complain; the certified letter that was sent to Mark Koenig came back 'unclaimed'. Three attempts were made by the USPS. He was the one who actually drilled the well.

Ike suggested that the Commission flag Mark Koenig's record if he does return to the State of Maine.

TOPIC: COMPLAINTS RESOLVED

Complaint received on 2/18/14 from Erica Richards of Falmouth on Woodsome Well Drilling Co. was withdrawn.

Complaint received on 2/20/14 from Bruce Church of Kennebunkport on Woodsome Well Drilling Co. has been resolved.

TOPIC: SPECIALTY WELL APPLICATIONS (SWP)

None at this time.

TOPIC: EXAM APPLICATIONS

1. CHAMPNEY, Meaghan – WD-J

(*Please note Meaghan was approved to sit for the PI-J exam in April of 2013, but to date, has not taken the exam.)

Motion to discuss: Dwight

Seconded by: Joe

Vote: Unanimous – approved

2. KNOWLTON, Tobin – WD-J and PI-J exam

a. Motion to discuss WD-J: Frank

Seconded by: Joe

Vote: Unanimous - approved

b. Motion to discuss PI-J: Ike

Seconded by: Joe

Vote: Unanimous – approved

3. TEMPLE, Scott – PI-M

Motion to discuss: Dwight

Seconded by: Frank

Vote: Unanimous – **denied** – incomplete application

4. TEMPLE IV, Adelbert S. – PI-M

Motion to discuss: Dwight

Seconded by: Frank

Vote: Unanimous – **denied** – incomplete application

5. ROBINSON, Trent – WD-J

(*Please note Trent was approved to sit for the WD-J exam in February of 2012, but did not sit at that time.)

Motion to discuss: Dwight

Seconded by: Joe

Vote: Unanimous - approved

6. DESCHAINE, Bert – PI-J

(*Please note that Bert applied in 2007. He is now requesting to sit for the exam. He was instructed to submit an up-dated application & fee.)

Motion to discuss: Dwight

Seconded by: Frank

Vote: Unanimous – **denied** – incomplete application

Update: TEMPLE, Hollis – WD-J; Mr. Temple was approved to sit for the exam in February of 2014. I contacted him on 2 different occasions, but to date, he has not taken the exam.

TOPIC: FINANCES No new news.

TOPIC: OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS

Frank discussed a new product, approved by NSF, product by MAHER. Don to discuss product with Normand Lamie.

TOPIC: PUBLIC COMMENTS None at this time.

TOPIC: FUTURE DISCUSSION

- Sunset clause on exam application timelines. Guidelines needed.
- Application statement (signed & certified) regarding ‘who is the master’ and which company associated with.
- Review of exam applications if no fee received.
- Commission Chair – review statute.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:45 a.m.