

Water Commission Minutes
5/10/2021

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

Present by Zoom: Fran Huntoon, Bard Hill, Cody Quattrocci
Absent: Don Morin, David Sander

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15; Gary Bressor, Peter Brown and Bob Reap

1. Welcome by Bard.

Public Comment:

- Gary Bressor commented that he had seen in the news that no new discharging into Winooski would be approved. He then asked what happened when a facility's capacity was gone, was it just gone? Kendall said yes, unless a trade with another town to use some of their capacity can be made.
- Gary Bressor asked if further construction on Bridge Street would it take place in the new right of way or under his driveway? Kendall replied his intention was that the waterline would be in the easement and not his driveway adding that the existing line would be abandoned in place.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

- that Kendall thought the expenses for the East Main Street project should be explained. Bard responded that this was a special meeting and that it should be discussed at the next regular meeting. Josh said there are conversations to be had on the subject. Bard said the issue is there was water leaking in town, not a water line but a private stormwater line and who pays when it is in the public right of way. Bard thought the Selectboard might be the authority and in the meanwhile it could be sorted out before the next meeting.
- that Bard noted that there is a hard stop at 7PM for the meeting
- that Bard provided an update on his meeting with the Planning Commission saying they discussed what the plans were for the water/ sewer expansion and development in the gateway letting them know it was the Planning and Zoning Commission that is the authority.
- that that with expansion, there could be more and different development in the gateway if water and sewer were available. Fran said the Commission's job is Water /Sewer and not what is happening in the gateway. Cody agreed that development was not in their purview.
- that Bard went on to say that he had a conversation with Jana Brown regarding the Route 2 construction and new federal funding. He said there are two pots of money- for water /sewer expansion and he had asked Jana Brown how to access those funds. He added that there is some amount of money coming to the town and it could possibly be used for things related to infrastructure. Peter Brown asked if it would be

a grant, loan or what. Bard said that there have been previous talks about using the bond bank at 2% interest over 30-40 years. What is being talked about now is that there may be a different way of funding the project adding no one is offering 50% forgiveness. Peter asked if he, as an individual, could access the money. Bard said the funding being considered is for public systems and the rules may be different than they currently are. That the public line would be to the mobile home park but into the park would be private. Peter said his engineer was supplying plans that he would provide to the town and that he was looking for what the rates would be. He said he appreciated the work the town is doing, and he would be back in town in June. Bard said the commission is working toward knowing what the rates will be but knowing the funding rate is an unknown.

- that Kendall wondered if all the residents knew that if the vote is approved that they will have to hook up if the line goes past their property.
- that Bard said there is no reason to go past the Mobil station if the mobile home park does not want to hook in.

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a) Review and discussion of project planning timeline

Josh reported:

- that he looked at what had been completed and what needed to be reorganized on the timeline
- that he reported what had been completed and what was coming up
- that CWSRF was not going to be a funding source, the application was denied because we did not have an updated PDR
- that the USDA funding source may be something we qualified for, but we are not a good match
- that after a meeting with the lawyer it has been determined that residents would vote, not owners of the property
- that water service to the Reap's and the Mobil station should be moved back since we have been focused on sewer only
- that a fresh bond vote should be done even though there was one that passed
- that a map of the current district has been created by town staff and approved by the Water Sewer Commission
- that moving forward we need to continue discussions with the Mobil station
- that the Reap's would like to have the construction done ASAP
- that there is a 6% subsidy from CWSRF for engineering, Josh will have the application ready for the SB meeting next week
- that Linda Parent has been working on a list of who will be voting
- that costs and timing of the vote will be determined by Linda Parent and should be available soon
- that the bond vote updated costs from Green Mountain Engineering will be in available in July and we may not want to go to bond vote without updated costs
- that the bond vote may be ready in August
- that requests for construction bids could go out mid-October
- that with updated information rate fees and structure would be available and before a vote potential new customers should be queried so we are not trying to sell people something they do not want to buy

- that previously the costs were steep enough that people did not want the expansion to continue
- that the reason to do the expansion is to make the rates better for everyone
- that a decision point will be added to the timeline after the potential users are queried
- that it is plausible that the new funding opportunities may be out in the next three (3) months and will be kept an eye on
- that there are ways to reduce the TMDL's, but they are very expensive. More treatment would be needed making new development more expensive.
- that at 80% capacity a new plan has to be submitted, Kendall said Hinesburg is dealing with that right now
- that if all this falls apart, and we decide not to proceed, the Reap's could go over the hill using the easements they have making a connected user line that is private, Kendall said that there is a way to have lines outside the district connected to the district, but it would only be their property
- that there should be a decision point that allows the Reap's to move forward if the decision is made to not move forward with the Route 2 expansion
- that timeline items may need to be pushed out into the future
- that Josh said this was a good discussion to have
- that the timeline will be posted online for public comment

b) Discussion of next steps for holding a bond vote and a vote on district expansion

Discussed in the previous item.

- that the Water and Sewer Commission would recommend a bond vote to the Selectboard, if the Selectboard approved then a vote would take place
- that having the potential users queried first would be prudent

c) Other topics related to the expansion of the sewer system

- that Bard said having one (1) hour meetings each week alternating regular and expansion meetings seems to be working, Fran agreed that after the budget meeting it might be possible to go back the regular meeting schedule, Cody felt that the time was needed and should be used.
- that there will be two (2) meetings next week, the regular meeting and the budget meeting, both starting at 6PM
- that Josh has gotten no letters of interest from anyone wanting to be on the Commission, Bard recommended posting again on Front Porch Forum again
- that it requires a charter change to have owners who do not live here to be on the Commission, but it may be something that should be looked at more closely.
- that Josh said Don has expressed that he does not want to proceed, Josh thought if people knew that the seat was open it might spark interest

4. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

Adjourn

Fran moved to adjourn; Cody seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Cody, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

