

Water Commission Minutes
3/01/2021

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

Present by Zoom: Fran Huntoon, Don Morin, David Sander, Bard Hill, Katie Mather

Absent:

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; Rod West, Bob Reap, Jeremy Hoff, and David Thomas

1. Welcome by Bard. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. None

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Discussion of expansion of sewer system into the Gateway District

1) Review of opinion of probable cost

Josh reported:

-that Green Mountain Engineering (GME) has updated the previous cost estimates for phase 1 comparing Jericho Rd vs Route 2 expansion

Discussion included:

- that Bard described on the two options
- that there is a difference in slope between the projects with Route 2 being preferable
- that Kendall said there is a significant difference in pushing septage uphill
- that construction costs are similar with the differences being traffic control & permitting
- that Don thought the difference in length was more than 200', Bard responded that the engineer made his calculations
- that the Route 2 costs would be less over time primarily due to access and utilities
- that there are several potential customers on the Route 2 path
- that Don asked where the force main would go, Bard thought it would be in the right-of-way but not under the pavement
- that Don asked if VT Gas would be receptive to us going under their line, Kendall responded that the companies work together, Bard noted that VT Gas does not have more rights than the town.
- that Rod West asked about cost projections for phase one saying the proposal does not list a pump station, he said given the cost difference of about \$30,000 he felt not needing high pressure pumps would be better. He added that if the mobile park is thinking of joining then that would have implications. Bard said that that would be in phase 2 & 3 and could be discussed then. Kendall said that in phase 1 the Reap's would need a pump station and every hook up would have a low-pressure pump

station to pump to the line. Bard said there are no typical costs available just now adding that at present the discussion is about the differences in the routes.

- that physics wise Rod West thought Route 2 would be best
- that Bard said that past discussions have been that any phase 1 would anticipate phases 2 & 3.
- that there is a \$10,000 cost for an easement allowance and Bob Reap wondered if the allowance were due to the VT Land Trust Property, he wondered if Route 2 would also need the easement. Additionally, Bob Reap asked about the \$5000 Archeological study. Bard responded that on Route 2 the easement would not be needed. Josh thought the route to Jericho Rd would need to be marked out and was part of the cost. Kendall said that the easement needs to be updated to include others and not just the Reap's. Bob Reap said that he has a sketch of what the easement currently is.
- that as to the Archeological Study each route would need to have one done
- that David asked what challenges there are to digging under a gas line, Kendall responded not to hit the gas line but there is newer technology that makes it easier. David wondered about customer interruptions to dig under the gas line. Bard suggested going back to the engineer with those questions. Josh said he is keeping track of any questions.
- that Bob Reap asked if there were any other utilities that would be impacted. Kendall responded that the gas line was the only utility on that side. Bard said that we have not built there but there may be preexisting obstacles. Kendall said the gas company would have to have information because of construction they have done there
- that Don asked about the cemetery, Bard thought the fence would be an issue to be dealt with, but interments would not be an issue and suggested the question be asked of the engineer
- that Don said he liked the Route 2 path but there are questions that still need to be answered

Discussion on phase 2:

- that the mobile station is in Phase 2 and previously the expansion was only to the chiropractor's office in this phase
- that this is a cost estimate update from the one done in 2017
- that the length of the path needs to be verified
- that variables may change between the chiropractor's office and the mobile station
- that there are questions that will need to be addressed
- that Bob Reap said he had done some costing and the \$25/ per linear foot is realistic and goes up with the size of the line

Discussion on phase 3:

- that this phase goes to the mobile home park
- that Fran thought that in the past it was phase 3 that would get us the best grants or loan forgiveness. Bard said she was correct, that the other phases would not be as favorably funded. Kendall said we want to put the project in all at once to get more favorable funding. Bard said the cost to new users looks different if we do not go all the way to the mobile home park. Kendall said there are funding variables out there. Bard said the state was interested in connectivity to the mobile home park and if they said they were not interested he did not know what that would mean for the project.

- that Bard said updated costs could allow for discussions with future potential customers adding that the phase 1 numbers seem to be the most current.
- that Don was unsure what the phasing is like and he would like to have the mobile station hooked into the system asking what if the Mobile Station does not want to join. Bard said that each phase can be done independently. That cost feasibility will determine what phases and when. Bard said that each phase will be built with the possibility of future expansion. Don thought asking customers to pay for the planning of future expansion was not right.
- that this will be an ongoing topic
- that the timeline was updated and would be a work in progress
- that updating the costs in phases 2 and 3 should be done for the next meeting
- that Joy Reap asked if one of the options was for them to pay the whole amount for phase 1 and then have others pay only for their own hook ups. Bard said they would not be getting a \$200,000 + bill, the more users, the less the amount each customer would need to pay and the cost would be billed to the customer over time. Joy said she is concerned that they pay for phase 1 then those in phase 2 do not contribute to phase 1 costs. Bard said typically the costs are spread out over all the users of the expansion.
- that Bob Reap said infrastructure costs are the question. Bard said it would have to be the new users that pay. The first year it may be one user, the next two users, the next 20 users so the amount is spread out. Bard said the overall costs need to be determined.

2) Consideration of approval of preferred route for Phase I

Discussion:

- that the cost difference is about \$33,000 with Route 2 being higher but long term operating costs would be less
- that Kendall preferred route 2 because of the potential of future customers and accessibility
- that there may be an unforeseen deal breaker for Route 2
- that David was in favor of Route 2 but wanted the additional information, that Fran agreed with David
- that Don agreed with Route 2 but also wanted additional information.
- that Katie agreed also
- that Bob Reap thought someone should reach out to the Catholic Church before a decision was made. Bard agreed to reaching out to them.
- that Fran asked if the gas line already goes past the cemetery, Kendall said yes. Fran suggested being in touch with VT Gas. Josh thought Green Mountain Engineering might have an answer.
- that Don wanted to have someone from Green Mountain Engineering attend the next meeting. Bard said it was preferable to provide the questions in advance to be the most productive. Josh will get them together.

3) Review of timeline – was not covered due to time constraints

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

b. Consideration of completing Preliminary Engineering Reports for waterline projects

Kendall reported:

- that he would like to proceed with getting a preliminary engineering report and was looking for approval to go get costs for projects
- that Josh said we could get costs and then come back to the Commission
- that this will come back with cost estimates

c. Consideration of setting a date for the Water and Sewer Annual Meeting

Bard thought the date may be on the timeline already, Josh said we put down May 10th but historically it would fall on May 18th.

David moved to set the Annual Water and Sewer Meeting for May 18th ; Fran seconded.

Discussion included:

- a request for a friendly amendment to include a start time of 7PM.

David amended the motion to set the Annual Water and Sewer Meeting for May 18th at 7PM; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Katie, Don, David and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

d. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that the state is going to require a back-up generator and he is looking into the cost
- that the repair on Route 2 was expensive with costs to follow

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

David moved to approve the Minutes of 02/16/2021; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: David, Fran, Katie, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

Purchase Orders

Fran moved to approve PO 4119 to Green Mountain Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$11,230; David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

Fran moved to amend PO 3925 to various chemical suppliers to an amount not to exceed \$91,100; David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

Discussion:

Kendall said the PO needed to be increased due to increased septage

Warrants:

David moved to approve the warrants and invoices as presented; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda

West Main Extension
updated costs for phases 2 & 3
updated information re: Catholic Church
5:30 start time for the next meeting on 3/15

Bard thanked Katie for her time on the Water and Sewer Commission as well as her work on the Selectboard.

6. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Don, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

CHAT

00:59:42 Bob Reap: We have a quick question to go back a little. let us know when a good time to pose that is.