

Water Commission Minutes  
7/19/2021

Members Present in person: Bard Hill, June Heston, David Sander arrived at 6:23PM

Members by Zoom: Fran Huntoon

Absent: Cody Quattrocci

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Staff Present in person: Josh Arneson, Town Manager

Staff Present by Zoom: Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Kendall Chamberlain, Water & Sewer Superintendent

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Others Present in person: Bruce Bailey

Others Present by Zoom: Rod West, the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15

**Called to Order:** 6:01 PM

**1. Welcome by** Fran

**2. Comments from the public:** none

No additions or deletions to the agenda

**3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

**a. Update on status of Bridge St. Waterline Replacement Project: Church St. to Volunteers' Green**

Josh reported:

- that there was a pre-bid meeting last week with five (5) to seven (7) potential bidders attending. July 30<sup>th</sup> is the bid opening with time to review the anticipated Selectboard approval date is Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>

Discussion:

- that construction is scheduled for this fall and the need to keep traffic flowing from 7am – 8am is a consideration.
- that there will be lane closure during construction so starts will be either after 8AM or there will be a law enforcement officer provided by the construction company at the light to keep traffic moving.

**b. Review of Gateway Sewer Expansion Preliminary Engineering Report and project timeline**

Josh reported:

- that the preliminary engineering report was received and is quite lengthy
- that there are updated costs for each phase

Discussion included:

- that Fran noted that there were comments in the report associated with the fact that receipts from septage were higher than receipts from customers. Kendall said the numbers were reported in the budget and was due to the significant numbers from septage.
- that June asked about the report in relation to soils that are “moderately suited or not suited”, Kendall said that the soil not being usable for private septic

would make the project seen as more favorable. Bard thought that if those areas are marginally or not suited, he wondered how the current septic systems were functioning, Fran said we do not know if there are failed systems. Kendall added that if anyone on that route needed to replace their septic it would cost about \$30,000 and function for a very limited time. Bard noted that the report refers to that also.

- Kendall asked if the commission noted that the areas for expansion were delineated in the Appendix.
- that Bruce Bailey said this was approached ten (10) years ago when he was on the commission and there was a study done then, it was determined there was not much that could be done so he wondered how much money was going to be spent before a decision was made. Bard responded that there was a difference in interest in Phase 1 which has two routes, the recent new owner of the Mobil station had plans to bore under the highway to put a new septic in for expansion at great cost, property owners between the station and the Reap's are interested and unlike 10 years ago the mobile home park owner is now interested possibly because his permits are about to expire. Bruce asked if we were certain the park owner was on board, Fran responded that by building it out in phases decisions can be made based on each point in the expansion, Bard added that with the updated costs individuals can determine their interest. Bruce asked about whether there was a cap placed on the amount that would be spent on this before a decision is made. Fran responded that there is timeline sheet with items sequenced with decision points to help determine whether to continue or stop the process, but no cap has been placed on the amount of spending. Bard added that financing will help determine how things will proceed, with money coming out of the CARES ACT we are waiting to see what happens as we see how our project stacks up to other projects.
- Bruce Bailey said he was not criticizing he thought they were doing a fine job, Bard commented that the commission had been recruiting for a customer on the commission. Bruce laughed saying he had strict orders about attending the meeting.
- Fran asked about the map on pages 35, 36, 38 asking if depicted the route down from the school because it did not look like the residences at the end of Main Street were included. Her understanding has been that if the expansion went down Route 2 the white area would be part of the new system, Bard said that was correct and that should be confirmed as to the accuracy. Fran said one of the recommendations made in the report was to go along the Route 2 corridor and those residences would then be included. Kendall said, the map seemed to be a draft that was done before the expansion details were made and it should be updated. Fran thought there may need to be two maps, one showing each route, so when people are reviewing the information, it is accurate. Bard noted there would need to be multiple map corrections.

David arrived and took over the meeting.

Josh continued his report:

- that on the timeline where it updates are indicated with receipt of the preliminary report they can now be done by the next meeting
- that sample rates can be recalculated and updated
- that the information sheets may not be ready by 7/31 but by the 8/2 meeting

Discussion included:

- that Bard said we are close to being on schedule
- that Josh said the next meeting will have more information for decision points and would email residents in the proposed expansion
- that there may be special meetings in August, the timeline will be updated to reflect that no special meetings are needed in July

### **c. Superintendent's Report**

Kendall reported:

- that Peaceable Kingdom is installing their water line with water testing potentially next week
- that they have been working on some meter issues (need for check valves, accessibility, etc.) with residents to correct meter installations.
- that the department had met the woman trailblazer who would be working through the Women's Work program
- that the marking of valves and curb stops on Bridge St has been taking place
- that lead sampling tests, as required, were going out to customers
- that the alarm system was showing its age and he has been looking at how to replace it
- that he has been trying to get projects ready for any large amounts of money that may come available
- that the replacement of the culvert on Thompson Rd will need the water line to be moved and replaced

## **4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders**

### **Minutes**

Bard moved to approve the Minutes of 7/6/2021; June seconded. Roll Call Vote: June, Bard, Fran, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

### **Purchase Orders – none**

Josh reported:

- that there was one purchase order to Green Mountain Engineering (GME) that needed to be looked at that was for the West Main St project. He said there was a small bill against that on this warrant, the original PO was for \$11,230. and the total charged against it was \$16,737. He then explained that this was due to some changes that had been made during construction that took time beyond what had been anticipated. GME will be providing an after-the-fact change order that details the additional money that will be presented to the commission at the next meeting in case there are any additional questions from the commission.

Discussion included:

- that the bills had already been paid
- that the overage of the PO was not caught until now partially due to the fact the PO was several years old, and the work just completed.
- that the engineers estimate was about \$100,000 for construction and it came in at about \$80,000 with the overall budgeted amount being under, just a little over for engineering

### **Warrant**

Bard moved to approve the warrant as presented; June seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, June, and David voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

David and Fran thought the invoices looked good.

#### **5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn**

Big Spruce DRB hearing update related to outdoor seating

#### **Adjourn**

June moved to adjourn; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: David, Fran, June, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.