

DRAFT Water Commission Minutes 1-7-19

Called to Order: 6:03pm

In Attendance: Bob Reap, David Sander, Bard Hill, Fran Huntoon, Christy Witters, Kendall Chamberlin, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper, Marie Thomas, Linda Parent

Public Comment: NA

Bard Hill requested to add an item to the agenda, "items for future agendas" as item 5.

Superintendent's Report:

Kendall Chamberlin told the commission that the Vermont Historical Society may be interested in acquiring our wooden water pipe. He said the water commission and/or selectboard would have to approve the transfer. The commission agreed they would want to know what will come of the pipe, meaning where it would be housed or displayed and if it would be always on display and not boxed up in storage.

Kendall also gave updates about the furnace and the condition of the rip rap project. He said the new auger would be installed on Wednesday.

Kendall continued the discussion from the previous meeting regarding permits and fines. He said that he found that most towns do all of their permitting and fines through their zoning administrator. He asked if any of the money from the permit fees go to the water department. Jessica Draper said she didn't believe any zoning fees go anywhere but the general fund, but that technical review fees go into a separate fund. Kendall requested that it be considered to allocate some of the permit and fine money to the water department where applicable.

Kendall Chamberlin stated that Camels Hump Middle School had been taking water from one of their hydrants without permission or paying for it. Bard Hill asked if there are penalties. Kendall said there were penalties and provided an example letter from a previous instance. Bard Hill suggested following up with the school district. Kendall suggested removing the hydrants when a sprinkler system is installed. Discussion determined that the use of the water was to fill the temporary skating rink at the school, and that the fire department may have knowledge of the hydrants being used for that purpose. Josh Arneson and Kendall Chamberlin agreed to follow up with Principal Carbone.

Kendall Chamberlin announced that his department has hired a new employee. Josh Arneson and Kendall asked about how the paygrid could be altered to increase the pay of one of the open positions. Bard Hill suggested the change should be approved by the selectboard. David Sander stated that the water commission would be concerned with the impact to the budget.

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Kendall Chamberlin proposed the possibility of sharing water department staff with Hinesburg, similar to how the zoning administrator is shared. Jessica Draper clarified that Suzanne is employed by both towns separately, and does not receive full time employee benefits. The water commission agreed they would be interested, and encouraged Kendall and Josh to follow up with that possibility.

Bard Hill moved to approve the minutes from 12/17/18. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. So moved.

David Sander asked if there were items for future agendas. Bard Hill asked about billing system errors. Kendall Chamberlin said that he and Connie do look at the bills and major changes in use are flagged. He said that NEMRC has bugs that trigger errors in the billing for commercial versus residential and in the number of units being charged. They try to catch errors, and they do rectify errors when it is brought to their attention. David Sander asked if meters have ever been over-reading. Kendall said that they had an instance where the vibrations from the passing train had caused major errors in a meter in the past, but that they rarely malfunction and are replaced when they are found to be faulty.

Bard Hill moved to adjourn. Seconded by Christy Witters. All were in favor. Adjourned 6:40pm.