

Water Commission Minutes
12-16-2019

Called to Order: 6 PM

Members Present: Fran Huntoon, David Sander, Christy Witters, Bard Hill, Don Morin

Absent:

Others Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Linda Parent, Town Clerk; Robert Reap, Brad Elliott, Wright Preston and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15.

1. Welcome by Bard at 6PM. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.

Kendall requested to discuss his authority in making decisions. It was decided to add the subject during the Other Business portion of the meeting.

3. Other Business

a. Request from Gabe Firman to increase the water and sewer allocation at 39 Bridge St.

Josh gave an overview of the project, Gabe has been renovating the “Toscano” property and is building 4 apartments over the restaurant. Due to the number of apartments he needs a new allocation for water and sewer. Kendall agreed the Town has the capacity. It will be around April before he needs approval.

Discussion: The allocation request is for a 47 seat restaurant and 4 apartments which requires an additional 135 gal water and additional 348 gal waste water. Of note, regardless of the allocation allotted billing is done by usage so that every customer is treated equally.

Motion to increase Gabe Firman’s water and sewer allocation at 39 Bridge Street by 135 gallons of water and 348 gallons of waste water was made by Christy, David seconded. All were in favor.

Bard would like to look into how many allocations have been allotted but not used.

b. Discussion of the Reaps letter regarding sewer service for 91 Willis Farm Rd.

Josh introduced the Reap’s letter and began the discussion by comparing their request to the current policy that is in place. The following items were noted:

1. The Commission would need to vote to include their property in the district. One of the questions raised was whether the Richmond Land Trust property of the Willis Sledding Hill, would need to be included in the extension and whether they would have any concerns. The plan is to have the line come down the back of the property, not following route 2. The connection would not be into the school line since it is a private line. The school has discussed having the line taken over by the Town. Kendall would like to have authorization to spend \$1,000 to have the line looked at. If it has been upgraded from the original cast iron it would make a difference how to proceed. Unanimous consent was given to have the pipe examined.

2. What would future expansion look like? Kendall stated that the sizing of the pump house and the size of the pump are not currently issues. Making certain the force main is sized for the future is very important. The Reap's are proposing a 3" main and that is what the Town would be looking for. There was concern that sometime in the future the Town would be asked to take over the line. The Reap's felt it would be up to the Town at the time and Josh reminded everyone that if someone wanted to hook into the system beyond the Reap's the Reap's would need to have an easement and agreement with them that would enable them to recoup some of their expenses. Bard added that the policy is designed to make sure that current users do not pay for expansion of the system. It was agreed that a written agreement, easement and letter to the school are next steps.

c. Follow up on date and location for the 2020 Annual Water and Sewer Meeting

Josh reported that the Library is available, Camels Hump is not. The Board agreed to hold the meeting on Tuesday, 5/19/2020 at the Library starting at 6PM.

d. Review of information to include in the Town Report

Fran noted that the water/waste water spreadsheet need to have the columns expanded so nothing is cut off. Josh will bring docs back for final review.

ADDITION: Discussion regarding Kendall's authority to require a customer on a private line to replace substandard materials. Kendall reported that recently a private water line had a catastrophic failure that caused the loss of several thousand dollars of water that won't be billed. The customer patched the line with the same substandard material. Kendall notified the customer that the line needed to be replaced before winter. The customer sent a note to Bard questioning whether Kendall has the authority to require that. Kendall was told he did not have that authority based on information received from VLCT. Kendall's feeling is that State statute overrules the policy because of public health concerns. Bard thinks the policy could be updated. Christy would like more time to make certain this is handled properly, that Kendall has the authority he needs and requested the subject be revisited at the next meeting. All agreed.

These items were set aside due to time constraints for the next meeting:

e. Review and discussion of Delinquent Account Policy

f. Update on Bridge St. waterline project

g. Follow up on warrant approval process

h. Superintendent's Report (5 min)

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

a. Minutes of 12/2/19 - David made a motion to approve the minutes, Fran seconded. All were in favor.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

David made a motion for the next meeting to take place at 5:30PM to ensure enough time to cover all topics, Fran seconded. All were in favor.

David made a motion to adjourn, Christy seconded. All were in favor.