

Water Commission Minutes
12/21/2020

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

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

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; also present: Jeremy Hoff, Richmond Land Trust; Rod West, Jim Feinson, Peter, Gary Bressor, Cara LaBounty, Tom Frawley, unidentified person at 802-578-9678, the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15

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 consecutive sewer agreement at 91 Willis Farm Rd. to include:

1) Update on the 2015 Bond Vote

Josh reported:

- that the bond vote of 2015 passed narrowly.
- that there is no expiration of the bond vote.
- that the towns lawyer thought we may need to go back to the bond bank to make sure the vote still applies to the current situation.

Discussion:

- that Bard thought the amount would still be applicable.
- that there are a few items to review with the bond bank if we decide to move forward.
- that Kendall said we are planning to do part of what was approved so it should be ok.
- that Gary Bressor asked if there has been any discussion about bringing the system down to the mobile park. Bard replied that the state has been more interested than the mobile home park owner adding that the owner suggested that the town take over the park infrastructure the last time it was discussed leaving the town to repair, replace and upgrade the system to bring it up to standards. Kendall thought an extension to the mobile home park was years out, if at all.
- that Gary Bressor said at the time of the vote people thought the mobile park was in desperate need and he thought people wanted to help them so they voted for it adding it was a narrowly passed vote and he was not certain people would vote the same way.
- that Gary Bressor asked if the mobile station was interested in hooking in. Bard replied potentially.

2) Discussion of attendance at the January 7, 2021 Richmond Land Trust meeting

Bard reported:

- that he had spoken with Jeremy Hoff from the Richmond Land Trust (RLT) regarding phases one and two adding that since 2015 the commission has consistently looked to complete phase one and two together.

Discussion:

- that Fran said that expansion beyond the Reap's was speculative. Bard said there are property owners between the Reap's and the mobile station that are interested. Bard thought there are plans to remodel the mobile station and redo the septic system. Don said at the last meeting there were residents that were interested in connecting. Rod West said that he, Mr. Strong and Mr. Fallen and Doggy Day Care have interest in joining the system, but the cost is the issue. Bard said if it were free everyone would hook up and if it were a million dollars, no one would want to hook up adding that the details are not clear, but the devil is in the details. Tom Frawley, owner of the mobile station, said he has the permits to put septic in under the highway to the Green Mountain Power land adding that the station itself needs updating. He has heard about the plan for the expansion and would like to find out if it is a comparable cost, but timing is an issue. If the State Route 2 project really goes in 2022 it is a realistic time frame. Bard said the route 2 project has been on and off again for years and that everything the town has heard recently is that this is going to happen but until the equipment shows up it is not started until it is started. Katie asked how we would figure out the costs. Bard said it is either a private or public system. If a public system, there is a method of figuring out usage and would include hookup fees. Katie said the Reap's have brought their plans to the town, she then asked, would we encourage people to put together a group and present a plan. Bard said generally it is a developer and we may have 2, the Reap's and the mobile station. Bard said the town would put together an estimate of costs and have cost models or gross estimates of what was needed. Don said we are not considering Cumberland Farms, he said he met with the owner a few years ago and he would like to move Cumberland Farms out of the center of town. He did not think having the Reap's go up to the school made sense. He suggested that the key people should explore the possibility. Bard said the Reap's came to the town with a proposal to go up the hill and it is not without its challenges. He said the State Route 2 project is an 18 - 24month project. Bard thought the stage was now set for the meeting with RLT.
- that Bard asked which board members were interested in attending the meeting with RLT. Don and David said they were interested. Bard said if other members were interested it may require a joint meeting that is warned. Jeremy said he would like to have his board go through it with a member or two to get up to speed prior to any public meeting. Bard said the meeting was a discussion, not a presentation. Jeremy it is an opportunity for his board to get up to speed and having Kendall, Bard, Josh and one other commission member to present the information to his board was what they were looking for. Bard said there may be other interested parties that should be informed. Jeremy said this is a meeting that is intended to bring RLT up to speed and there may be other meetings with a broader attendance. David said he would like to be the other member. Jeremy said he will send out a Zoom invitation. Gary Bressor said he is looking forward to the meeting and it should be a good discussion. Bard asked if we should invite the town engineer. Kendall replied inviting Tyler made sense.

3) Discussion of possible collaboration with VTrans to include installation of sewer line under Rt. 2 in conjunction with the planned paving project in 2022

Bard reported that he had reached out to VTRANS to start the conversation.

4) Discussion of any consecutive sewer agreement topics not covered in the previous agenda items

Discussion included:

- that Fran said as we do this, we need to remain aware of the time constraints. Bard said the window is the 18-24 months construction period, from start to finish.
- that the commission would continue moving the project forward, making informed decisions, and conferring with the Reaps and mobile station owner.

b. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that there are some unexpected big subsidies available and he put in for the Church St project. Bard asked if this is because other projects did not get done. Kendall replied it probably is. Kendall said they are potentially doubling the grant amounts
- that he completed the power review and it shows we should have a generator for the pump station
- that the new hire is working out awesomely
- that the retired truck that is out for bid has had some interest

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Order

Minutes:

David moved to approve the Minutes of 12/7/2020; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively. Katie abstained. Motion passed.

Purchase Orders: none

Warrants:

David moved to approve the electronic warrant as presented; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, David, Don, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

VTRANS discussion

discussion RLT

not first meeting in Jan. but a mid-year update on finances

update on delinquent payments if possible

identification of individuals with phone numbers on zoom

6. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Don, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.