

Water Commission Minutes  
5/18/2020

Called to Order: 6:05 PM

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

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Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; and Angelica Contis recorded the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15; others present: none

**1. Welcome** by Bard. No comments.

**2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.** none

**3. Other Business**

**a. Update on adding a private water line extension to an agreement for a private sewer extension for 91 Willis Farm Rd.**

Bard reported that the Town's attorney has been working on an agreement between the Town and the Reap's for wastewater service and that during a recent meeting the Reap's expressed a desire to explore the idea of adding a water service component to the agreement. Bard added that the inclusion of water service would mean the Reap's turning over the well on their property to the Town.

Kendall added that what may be done is known as a "Late Comer Agreement", which is done when a developers costs are high, they want to recoup some of their expenses and still turn the system over to the municipality right away. Kendall reported that the way it works is that there is an agreement in place that outlines the number of connections expected and the number of years it is anticipated to take to get to that number as well as an amount paid to the developer every time someone connects to the expanded system. That charge is in addition to the normal charges imposed by the Town and would be a one-time assessment. The costs are known ahead of time to anyone hooking up. The agreement terminates upon the completion of the number of connections or the expected date by which the number of connections would be made.

Discussion included:

- Fran asking how it would work if someone paid to extend and then someone hooks in after them? Kendall responded that there is no difference, they each pay the additional fee to the developer as well as the fees to the Town
- Kendall noted that there could be multiple late comer agreements, for example: if the Mobile station were to add on.
- Kendall added that the state has a lot of rules for water systems that carry over to the town even when the water supply is private and that the water is the one the Town would want control over.
- Don inquired as to the Town attorney's experience with these type of agreements with Josh responding that he will find out the answer and ask for similar guidance as has been received for the private system.

- Bard agreed on inquiring what the lawyers experience is and to potentially seek an attorney that deals with this type of agreement regularly
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Discussion concluded with the acknowledgement that the Reap's will be getting back to the Town regarding their decision then this will move forward.

### **b. Review of presentation for Annual Meeting**

Josh walked through the annual meeting presentation being presented on 5/19/2020 at 6:00pm. Bard commented that the presentation may be a good recruitment tool for the seat on the commission adding that Don will continue if needed. The seat needs to be filled by a water and sewer customer. Katie added that putting a slide in regarding the COVID testing would add some good news. Don suggested creating a summery outline for the rates as opposed to having too much detail. Josh will make the updates for the presentation.

### **c. Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project**

Josh reported that overall the project going smoothly. There have been a few hiccups but work around solutions have been found as they've come up. With no school there isn't as much traffic and businesses have said they don't feel construction is impacting them as negatively as COVID-19 is.

Discussion included:

- Bard asking about replacing the line past the Buttermilk property to the cemetery, Josh replied that it will be if money is available within the current project budget.
- Don wanted to know if any additional expenses have come up during construction? Josh replied that there was some lost productivity when determining how to handle moving the sewer line that was found. The line does not appear on any of the plans. The cost of down time and moving the sewer line is being negotiated with J Hutchins. Josh did not think it was going to amount to 10's of 1000's of dollars stating it will be in addition to the contract but there was no way to plan for it. Josh added that there is contingency money built into the bond vote so it should not be a problem.

### **d. Superintendent's Report**

Kendall reported:

- that he is looking at the economics of having another truck since one is ready to be retired
- that the plant is taking in a ton of septage,
- that the wastewater exam will be in June
- that the renewal of the wastewater permit is happening.
- that with the various projects around town things are busy.

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

### **A) Minutes:**

David moved to approve the Minutes of 5/04/2020, Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don abstained. Katie, Bard, David, and Fran voted affirmatively.

### **B) Warrants:**

Fran thought they looked ok

David moved to approve the invoices and Warrant, Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Katie, Fran, David, and Bard voted affirmatively.

David moved to approve PO 3919 to J Hutchins in an amount not to exceed 75% of \$735,529. for the Bridge St. project, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, Don and Bard voted affirmatively.

Josh will send out the Warrant for signatures by DocuSign.

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

### **Items for the next agenda:**

Bridge Street follow up

Annual Meeting follow up

### **Adjourn:**

Fran moved to adjourn, Katie seconded. Roll Call Vote: David, Bard, Fran, and Katie voted affirmatively.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02PM