

Water Commission Minutes  
6/1/2020

Called to Order: 6:00 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. Consideration of approving final water and sewer allocation for 39 Bridge St. Josh reported that this application is for the Old Toscano building and includes 4 rental units and the restaurant.

Discussion included:

- Don asking what remaining capacity there is after this allocation. Kendall responded that we are well under the threshold.
- Bard wanted to know how metering will work between residential and the commercial restaurant. Kendall responded that the owner's bill will reflect 4 residential units and 1 commercial unit for fixed rates and usage will be at commercial rates adding that if any customer is mixed usage the default is for the commercial usage rate.
- Josh provided information on residential vs commercial rates

David moved to approve the final allocation for 39 Bridge St. Fran, seconded. Roll call vote: Bard, Don, Fran, Katie, and David voted affirmatively.

- b. **Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project and consideration of completing additional water main work on Bridge St.**

Josh reported:

- that construction has been completed under the railroad tracks
- that a water line had been damaged and Kendall was able to keep water going to businesses when another break occurred that had the crew working overnight and into the next workday
- that the town will be utilizing the VT Alert system in the future stating people sign up for alerts and receive them the way that is best for them making it easier to reach people
- that this week the stormwater line was brought up to Main St.
- that he was looking for the Boards approval to do the extra work on Esplanade is being asked for tonight if we are able to keep with the same contracted pricing for the extra work.

Discussion included:

- Bard asking if we are getting the best pricing, Kendall replied, yes, we are confirming that this will be priced at the same unit pricing.
- Bard asked about the project funding, Kendall replied, as long as we stay within the amount approved, we will be ok. Josh added that this is being brought today to be able to have the authority to act since the WS Commission meeting is every two weeks.
- that the increase of \$79,753.00 is contingent on the same cost and funding structure as the contract in place
- Kendall asked to amend the motion to allow for the work on Esplanade to go over the overall project costs by \$10,000. Don responded that he would vote no on the amendment as the work is less complicated so the unit cost shouldn't be more to do the extension. He is ok with doing the work if the pricing is the same, but is not will to pay extra for simpler work.
- Bard stated that it is not the Commission's typical fashion to approve something we don't know the cost of. If we met every week to consider a specific proposal it would be more typical of what we approve. Kendall responded that waiting could be disruptive to the process since there may be answers by Wednesday of this week. Bard replied, if I were the contractor listening to this discussion, I would say you have another 10K to spend so I want it. Kendall answered that the contractor would have to quantify why they need more money. Bard asked when the project was bid, Kendall replied, in January. Bard said all the contractor would have to say to justify getting more money is that he is paying hazard pay to his workers because they're working during the pandemic so I want to charge more. Don thought that Hutchins will do the work for the same pricing since the work is simpler, Hutchins should be told, if you want the work, you get it, but not at a higher rate.
- Katie asked if there was an opportunity to meet before two weeks from now, Bard responded yes.
- Bard asked if a motion should be called.
- Kendall reported that if we don't do the improvement on Esplanade now we will lose about \$20,000 in hauler septage because of shutting down the plant later to do it.

David moved to approve funding for installing additional water line from the bridge to Esplanade providing that this additional work does not result in the total project cost exceeding \$800,000, that the Town receives the same cost structure that we currently have with the contractor, and the same funding which includes the forgiveness of 50%. Fran Seconded. David moved to amend the motion to include approval of spending up to \$10,000 in funds that would not be included in the 50% forgiveness. Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Don nay, Fran aye, David aye, Katie aye, Bard abstained. Motion carried 3-1.

**c. Review of draft agreement for a consecutive sewer system for 91 Willis Farm Rd.**

Josh reported that he has sent the agreement to the Reap's but has not heard back from them. Bard asked if it was worth having the conversation without the Reap's, Josh replied, yes, that having the Commission's initial thoughts would be helpful.

Discussion included:

- Bard asked Kendall if the changes he'd made were reflected in the document they were now looking at, Kendall replied yes, the document reflects what the Commission agreed on at the last meeting.
- Don wanted to know how this user would be billed, Kendall responded that the customer would be billed the same way others with private water systems are billed. That those users receive billing that reflects a per unit fixed rate and have a meter on their water for usage billing. Kendall added that the Town sends one bill and they would have to break it down for their users.
- Bard thought the agreement should reflect an ability to evolve with the number of hook ups / units, Kendall responded that section 3.2 says they have to notify and obtain approval from the Town. Bard wants something more explicit about any expansion that may occur whether residential or commercial. It was decided to ask the attorney whether the language there now is sufficient.
- Don asked about par 2.4 saying, "Charge Owners and other users", he feels that implies more than one bill will be sent out. Bard asked if there is something that affirmatively states there is one bill, Josh, said yes. The original draft had said multiple meters, now the agreement says one. It was decided to ask the lawyer if the "charge owners and other users" language is left over from having multiple meters. Bard would like to make it clear that there is one bill.
- Fran asked if the Reap's would be in control of the system, would it be a private system? Kendall responded, yes, the Reap's are looking at it being a private system. Kendall added that with a private system they would decide how much to charge anyone that wanted to hook into their system. The system would still have to be up to Town and State specs, and that language is found in section 3 of the Agreement.
- Bard felt that the discussion should be tabled this until a later date when the Reap's are available.
- Don wanted to know why the Town is doing this agreement instead of the Reaps with the Town reviewing it. Bard suggested that we not update the agreement with the attorney until we hear from the Reap's.
- Bard suggested that comments, concerns and questions should be noted to review at the next meeting.

**d. Discussion of appointments to the Water and Sewer Commission**

Bard started off saying we have two present members, Fran, who has agreed to serve, and Don, who agreed to serve if we needed him. Bard added that theirs are the only letters of interest that have been received. Don said he is willing to serve but he feels he is rubber stamping a lot of things and not taking as much time as he'd like to understand issues.

David moved to recommend to that the Selectboard appoint Fran Huntoon and Don Morin to the Water and Sewer Commission to fill the user seats on the commission, Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Bard, and David voted affirmatively. Fran and Don abstained.

**e. Superintendent's Report**

With time running short Kendall reported that the most noteworthy item is that the bypass is set up to do on Depot St.

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

##### **A) Minutes:**

The approval of Minutes was put off until the next meeting due to time constraints.

##### **B) Warrants:**

David moved to approve the invoices and Warrant as presented, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, Don and Bard voted affirmatively.

David moved to approve PO 3955 to pay off the water tank loan that was refinanced in the amount of \$131,124.84, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Don, David and Bard voted affirmatively

David moved to approve PO 3957 for General and Pacif Insurances in the amount of \$13,086.50, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Don, David and Bard voted affirmatively.

David moved to approve PO 3956 for Administrative Services in the amount of \$20,000, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Don, David and Bard voted affirmatively.

David moved to approve PO 3924 to CSWD for the dumping of dewatered sludge in the amount of \$60,000, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Don, David and Bard voted affirmatively.

David moved to approve PO 3925 to various chemical supply companies in the amount of \$56,100, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Don, David 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

Email Josh with any other items

##### **Adjourn:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM