

Water Commission Minutes
6/22/2020

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

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

Absent: Don Morin

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: Steve Palmer, Green Mountain Engineering

1. Welcome by Bard. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. none

3. Other Business

a. Consideration of approving additional water main work on Bridge St.

Josh reported:

- that the work being considered is the replacement of the water line just north of the Bridge St bridge up to Esplanade.
- that the Selectboard has agreed to proceed providing the project does not go over the \$800,000 bond, plus \$10,000
- that the \$800,000 has a 50% forgiveness but the \$10,000 does not
- that the quote fits into the parameters providing the same pricing as the original quote
- that there has been a conversation with the State and the only thing holding up approval is a State historical review and nothing of historical significance has been found previously
- that if they did come back with something, it would be documented, and an archaeologist would need to come in
- that if we wait the window of opportunity will close

Discussion included:

- that Steve Palmer felt that there is mostly fill in that area and that there is nothing original from an archaeological standpoint so it should be a non-issue, Kendall agreed. Steve advocated for using the funds
- that Bard thought it was advantageous funding for project and with reduced traffic due to COVID there is limited business activity, school is out so there is less traffic, so it would be less disruptive to do it now adding that if the contractor goes away and comes back it will be more expensive
- Steve said constructive costs are 25-30% more than over the winter when this was bid. COVID is having impact on costs.
- Kendall said that this is asset management priority #4 or #5. He said right now he cannot be shut off that area without shutting off most of the time and the wastewater treatment facility

- Fran asked if we do not have the State historic write off is there any penalty or fine if we go ahead with this? Steve responded he did not ask that question. Josh did not know that answer, saying he will get the answer. Steve felt it was a minor risk that could be covered by a caveat on the vote about the answer from the State.
- Steve said that the State has 30 days to answer but are being asked to answer more quickly.
- Fran thought it was not a problem if approval could come later as long as there is no penalty or fine for moving ahead beforehand. Josh said he will follow up tomorrow.
- Bard thought it made sense. David thought Fran made a good point and thought the Commission should proceed.

David moved to proceed with the additional water main work on Bridge St pending an answer from the State that there will be no penalty or fine for moving forward, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: David, Fran, Katie, Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Discussion continued:

- Bard asked to make sure the Commission is informed regarding the follow up
- Kendall asked if the State says there is a \$5k penalty would the Commission still approve the work? is there an amount the commission would agree to pay? Josh reminded the commission that the project is a \$104,000 project with 50% forgiveness.
- Bard added, if the 50% forgiveness is lost, we still need to take into consideration that costs will go up.
- David said if there are obstacles we should pause as they come up.
- Bard said the approval is contingent on reassurance of no penalty or fines adding the Commission would want to know if there is a penalty to make the decision with all the information.
- Bard asked if there was a hard deadline for telling the contractor? Josh said they were looking for an answer after tonight. Steve said they need to get materials ordered so they were looking for an answer today adding that he did not think there was going to be a penalty. He thought the question may be whether it is eligible for funding. Bard said it would be good to know whether we would be moving forward with our own funding due to advantageous pricing. Katie felt losing the forgives was a big deal. Bard thought the State should be able to tell us about the funding tomorrow asking if it would be possible to have another meeting on Wednesday night. Josh said that was possible to have an emergency meeting. He said he would ask the State to do the review asap.

4. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Bard and David voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.