

Water Commission Minutes
7/20/2020

Called to Order: 6:01 PM

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

Present by phone: Don Morin

Absent: none

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: Dan Noyes, Bryan Currier

1. Welcome by Bard. None.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. None

3. Other Business -none

a. Discussion of water tank inspection

Bard began saying this topic started with some comments by email from Don Morin who was concerned about seeing efflorescence on the exterior of the town's water tank.

Discussion included:

- that Alan Huizenga, from Green Mountain Engineering reported that he had Carl look at the efflorescence. He determined that the cause is water seeping through the concrete and as the water evaporates and it leaves efflorescence. The water seeping through is coming from inside the tank, he said that some of the weeps were damp upon inspection and they may be seasonal. He said that efflorescence is not harmful, just unsightly.
- Carl said Don was concerned about whether epoxy coating was used because chlorinated water might cause the rebar to rust and fail. He said there is a coating on the surface of tank for aesthetic purposes and in a few places the coating has started to fall off. Carl was not sure if it has to do with the weeping or due to freeze/ thaw cycles. Carl said weeps should not cause any corrosion problem, that normally epoxy coating is used on stairs where heavily salted adding that epoxy was not used on tank due to it being drinking water.
- Bard said so the reason the steel is not coated in epoxy is that because it was an engineering judgement that it was not necessary to use epoxy since it is not heavily salted adding that not using epoxy was not error it was intentional not to use epoxy coated rebar. Carl responded saying stairs, bridges, reinforcing steel where heavily salted epoxy are the instances epoxy is used.
- Bard commented that he has seen that on bridge overpasses.
- Carl added that most of reservoirs are backfilled to a few feet of the top but that in Richmond that is not true. He said the west side of the tank is mostly exposed and that is where the efflorescence is. Efflorescence does happen, there is no way to say

whether it is usual or not. This site was unique as to size and location. There were a lot of changes made to accommodate the site.

- Bard suggested that the discussion be tabled until Don is available to ask any questions he may have, then thanked Alan and Carl for coming.

b. Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project

Josh reported:

- that Alan Huizenga, from Green Mountain Engineering, helped guide the town through this project and that Steve & Ben have been great to work with through the bid changes and actual construction.
- that we are getting close to the end of the main project
- that paving is mostly complete
- that there is more cleanup to do like concrete against a building
- that a punch list of items is being drafted
- that residents will see some one-way traffic
- that the waterline extension will begin from Jolina Court to Church St. in a week or so
- that the town had been waiting for a waiver, which was received.
- that the historical permit is still pending but should not be a problem
- that the contractor was given an extension to mid-September to do the extension work but hoped to be completed sooner

Discussion included:

- Bard asked if the paving when complete would be patching or the entire roadway. Josh replied that the contract is for paving what they disturb adding that Pete has more sidewalk work, then plans to resurface the street.
- Josh said his next step is to inform public of the timeline for the next few weeks.
- David said he thought the road surface restoration is better than the road was before the project,

c. Superintendent's Report

- Bard had a question for Kendall saying he took a tour of Richmond, Volunteers Green, out to Route 2 down Cochran Rd and he was impressed by the number of citizens from other places getting ready to get into the river. He said Volunteers Green was full almost to the end of the fields. His question was: is traffic impacting the treatment plant? Kendall said he has not had to call the police department to tow anyone yet, that letting people know they can't park there is working. Bard said Kendall may have to have a vehicle towed if they are blocking a hauler.
- Katie said Christine Werneke (Selectboard Member) found that the Friends of the Winooski website listed Bombardier field as a parking location. Bard said we should look into who told them that.

Kendall reported:

- that septic intake is maintaining a high volume
- that people are recreating at the plant outfall area at the river because it is cooler and very clean
- that he and the crew are catching up on odds and ends
- that the connections have been made on Bridge St and are working well

- that training is coming back online for Tyler
- that OPR certifications shifted to online about a year ago and Wastewater training and certification has been a nightmare. Bard asked if a letter from the commission to the Secretary of State would help. Kendall said that Aaron has been trying to take an exam since January and that it is a statewide issue. Bard asked if something could be drafted with concerns for the next meeting for signature
- that more septage is coming in from haulers than flow from residents
- that he has been having a hard time getting PPE for employees, but are in good shape right now
- that Kendall asked Josh to put out an RFQ for engineering so projects can be shovel ready for upcoming grant opportunities

Discussion included:

- that Bard asked about stormwater from the sever rains we have been having. Kendall thought there are a large number of residents putting stormwater into sewer lines because there are significant increases with storms. Bard thought it would be hard to find those hookups depending on the form of installation used. He thought education about ordinance should go out in the next mailing. Kendall agreed. Bard thought giving examples of what not to do, like plumbing a sump pump into the septage line would be helpful.
- that Kendall said haulers are working well with him on not having flushable and there is very little from residents since toilet paper is readily available again.
- Katie asked what kind of PPE Kendall was having trouble getting. Kendall replied, gloves. Bard said, if that becomes an issue, the Dept of Health is stock piling and we may want to bring it to the attention of the state to talk about wastewater professionals being the same as medical professionals. Kendall was asked to keep the commission informed.

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

A) Minutes:

David moved to approve the Minutes of 7/6/2020, Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, Katie, David, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

B) Purchase Orders:

David moved to approve PO 3958 to VLCT for insurances in an amount not to exceed \$25,961; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

C) Warrants:

Bard had one comment about PACIF numbers not matching. Josh said the Inv \$23,958. half now, half later so PO and invoice are different. Bard said it's off by \$1.50, he said he was willing to approve it as long as Connie checks to make sure amounts are correct and allocated correctly. Kendall noted that half is the PO amount.

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

Josh will send out the Warrant for signatures by DocuSign.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

follow up with Don on tank

Bridge St.

Superintendent's report

Timeline for illegal stormwater hookups

Letter to Sec of State Professional Regulation impact on staff for certifications

Adjourn:

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

Bard thanked Josh, Kendall and Kathy for persistence on Zoom through these times.

Meeting ended 6:54