

Water Commission Minutes  
7/6/2020

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

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

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

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

**3. Other Business**

**a. Acknowledgement of appointments made by the Selectboard to the Water and Sewer Commission**

Bard acknowledged that Fran Huntoon & Don Marin have agreed to continue their positions on the Water and Sewer Commission, he thanked them for their continued service.

**b. Consideration of approving waterline extension on Bridge St. from the Railroad to Church St.**

Josh reported:

- that at the special meeting waterline extension was discussed from Bridge to Esplanade, provided the 50% forgiveness was available. The Commission also approved the spending of and additional \$10,000 if it was necessary. Bid pricing was also a consideration. While waiting on approval it was discovered that a floodway permit would be required, and the Town would not have approval until Mid-Aug so the project could not move forward.
- that the town engineer then looked at another extension project. That project will still need historic sign off. The Commission is being asked to consider approval of extending the waterline from Bridge St. by the railroad to Church St.
- that the Town has received pricing from J. Hutchins, at \$100,036 which a similar cost to the extension previously approved. At that price there would be the full 50% forgiveness. In addition to favorable pricing and 50% forgiveness valves would be installed that would allow Kendall to shut off the area without shutting down the plant. Kendall added that there is more than one way to accomplish a goal and that this had been his original plan.

Discussion included:

- Bard saying 50% forgiveness is still the taxpayers money, but doesn't impact rate payers adding that the advantage to getting it done now during COVID and less traffic, no school.

- Katie asked if there was an estimated timeline of how long it would be until the work would HAVE to get the work done. Kendall replied that having seen some of the pipes he would say the work would need to be done sooner than he had thought. He said that the pipes have a 50year lifespan and the 4" line was installed sometime in the 1950's and the 8" line sometime in the 1960's. These are right in line for replacement.
- Don asked if there was a date for completion if approved? Kendall thought they could be done by 8/15 which was the original completion date. Josh said we do not have a schedule from the contractor, but it seems that they are running a little ahead.
- Josh said that the state would need to sign off that there is nothing of significant historical significance and that there is a letter already on file that says there is nothing so it is felt that it will be approved without any issues.
- Fran said she appreciates Josh and Kendall pivoting on this so quickly.

Dave moved, to move forward with that caveats that the cost will be less than \$114,000, have bid pricing and 50% forgiveness, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, and Bard voted affirmatively. Don voted no, he felt that the water tank needed repair. Bard said that any water tank issue was not relevant to this vote and could be discussed during the Superintendent's report. Motion passed.

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

Josh reported:

- that the contractor is putting in the sidewalks and curbs on upper Bridge Street
- that the storm water line has been installed
- and they are waiting on the waterline extension approval

Discussion included:

- Bard asking how traffic control was going. Josh replied that he has not heard any complaints adding the rain had created potholes the were fixed before the weekend.
- Kendall added that with another 12" valve extension we will be ready to roll in the future for updating and controlling the system.

#### d. Update on VT Emergency Alert System implementation

Josh reported:

- that after the waterline break, he has been looking for a way to get information out to residents in a faster way.
- that he and Linda have taken the training for the VT Emergency Alert System and is asking for an official resolution tonight that would ask people to sign up for alerts. Residents will be able to sign up by town, county or state making contact in emergency situations accomplished quickly.

Discussion included:

- Fran asked if people could sign up with either email or phone number? Josh replied residents could sign up using email, text, and/or voicemail. If signed up to receive alerts in multiple ways if no reply is received to one method the system would cascade to the next method after 2 minutes.

- Fran, asked how we would get word out to renters and wondered if something could go out with bills? Josh replied he would think about how to reach renters the best ways.
- Don asked if child abduction alerts would be part of the alert? Josh replied that amber alerts would not be. Katie added that those alerts are federal. Bard said he receives Washington and Chittenden county alerts. His understanding is it is that it is not just a class of users, it is everything.
- Josh said the timeline would be resolution tonight with guidance for outreach later this week or next.

#### **e. Reminder of open meeting law**

Discussion included:

- Bard saying, we need to be thoughtful that we are directed by statute to not discuss topics outside the meetings with more than one board member at a time. If one of the board members is proposing suggested items for an agenda that is not considered a substantive topic. Don thanked Bard for explaining that. Bard replied that boards are less efficient but more transparent to citizens and voters that way.
- Don asked if he could send him a memo and copy Kendall and Josh and anyone else in town? Bard replied that 5 emails to each member individually, with a note to not discuss with each other would be ok.

#### **f. Superintendent's Report**

Bard asked if Don would like to follow up on the water tank issue and efflorescence?

Discussion included:

- Kendall reporting that the tank has efflorescence. Efflorescence happens when some water migrates through the cement. He said he has forwarded his concern to Green Mountain engineering but has not heard anything back.
- Don said that when water hits rebar, it rusts and that is his concern.
- Bard said that since we expect a response from the town engineer, he would like an update at the next meeting. Kendall replied, yes.
- Don said that bridges have been failing and the practice is to use epoxy so if we have not used epoxy on the reinforcing steel he would like to know why.
- Bard asked to have the engineer appear at next meeting, if possible, to address questions and concerns.

Superintendent's report:

- Kendall reported he had to shut down today because the trailer is full.
- that they used the down time to cleaned wipes out of the pump.
- that he is looking at the possibility of charging a fee to do "final reads" when people move. He said that in other towns there is a fee. Bard asked to have a proposed fee structure to discuss. Kendall said he will prepare one.
- Kendall said the department is busy as usual and final connections should be in the next week. Katie thanked Kendall for overseeing the work and keeping the water flowing.

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

**Minutes:**

a. David moved to approve the Minutes of 6/22/2020; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don, Bard, Katie, David, and Fran voted affirmatively.

b. David moved to approve the Minutes of 6/15/2020; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don, Bard, Katie, David, and Fran voted affirmatively.

**Warrants:**

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

David moved to approve the electronic warrant report 1535 as presented, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**Purchase Orders:**

David moved to approve an amendment to the PO 3929 to DeBisschop in the amount of \$10,272.50; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

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

Water tank construction, epoxy on rebar

Bridge St. update

Reap's expansion discussion

**6. Adjourn**

David moved to adjourn; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, Bard, and David voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.