

Water Commission Minutes 8/17/2020

Called to Order: 6 PM

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

Present by phone: none

Absent: Bard Hill

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15; others present: Gabe Firman

1. Welcome by David. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. -none

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Final allocation for outdoor seating at 39 Bridge St.

Josh reported:

- that this location allocation already has 47 indoor seats for the restaurant and 6 bedrooms for the rental units
- that this is an additional 42 seats for outdoor dining

Discussion included:

- Gabe Firman stated that he currently has allocation for 47 indoor seats and because of COVID concerns he won't exceed that allocation for probably 2 years since he has no plans for opening up for indoor seating until COVID is under control. He said that coming up with another \$7,000 for the allocation outside is going to be tough and he was hoping that the allocation fee could be set aside until indoor seating resumes. His question was, could he push the allocation until it was needed?
- Katie asked if there was any precedent for that? Kendall replied that if there is no indoor seating at all, then it could be pushed off until indoor dining reopens. Gabe added that anything that could be done to offset the allocation would help.
- Fran asked if Gabe had paid for the 47 seats and rental units already. Gabe said, yes. Fran suggested not approving the allocation and allowing Gabe to use what he had already paid for. Don said he would like to have an end date. David responded that he did not think any of us could know when that would be.
- Don asked Gabe, so when you have indoor seating then you would re-apply? Gabe replied, we will not be doing indoor dining in the foreseeable future. The staff, in our environment, where people are not wearing masks, we do not want to put our patrons and staff at risk. We limit our exposure by being predominantly take out with some outdoor seating. He said that was the plan. We will be operating as an takeout/ outdoor restaurant until next summer at least.

Katie moved to transfer 42 indoor seats of the 47 seats already allocated to be used as outdoor seats until the Big Spruce reopens indoor seating; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Don, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

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b. Follow up on water tank engineering report

Josh reported:

- that we had a report a few meetings ago from our engineer and that Don was not available for that meeting, so he was going to speak with Carl about his concerns and get back to the commission. Josh turned it over to Don.
- that Don said he called Carl and had a good conversation. He said he was not ready to report, that he went up to the water tank and took some pictures and he wants to write a detailed report. Don said he called two other engineers to discuss it. He then requested the topic be tabled for a few weeks so he had time to write his report and provide it to the Water Commission.

c. Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project

Josh reported:

- that it is nearing completion
- that the extended line is complete and was retested today
- that the system will be completely tied in later in the week
- that Thursday is the second walk thru with the punch list.

Discussion included:

- that Fran asked if Hutchins were paving again on the other side of the bridge. Josh responded yes, it is on all the punch list
- that Fran commended Josh regarding the email notices and communication on the project in general. Josh said town wide notifications were made easier using the warning system. He added that the information on how to sign up for the Vermont notification system was on the town's website. He said it is important to do a complete profile, so people get the notifications they want and need. David said communication has been excellent.
- Kendall said there may be a change order coming because there was a long length of cast iron pipe he had them replace under the railroad tracks. David said it is a miracle it didn't break during the freeze thaw cycles all these years.

d. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that there was a small water leak at the water house
- that there had been a small polymer issues that was corrected
- that they have been busy on the Bridge Street project
- that the crew has addressed a few customer issues
- that haulers continue to come in large numbers

Discussion included:

- that Don asked about the water house leaks. Kendall said a new fitting had to be installed because it was leaking.

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

A) Minutes:

Fran moved to approve the Minutes of 8/3/2020, Katie seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don, Katie, David, and Fran voted affirmatively.

B) Purchase Orders: none

C) Warrants:

Fran thought warrants looked fine. She had a question about a PO to Hutchins that Josh answered. He said he would send a copy of the original PO to everyone.

Don asked if Josh was signing the warrant. He said he appreciates what Fran does and Josh does. Josh said he does sign them once he has reviewed them. Don said he would like Josh to sign them before they are approved by the Commission. Josh said it is just about timing and he is trying to get the packets out on time, so he sends them then reviews the packet prior to the meeting and signs it. Don said he would like to have Connie get the invoices done on Thursdays instead, so he has enough time to sign them first.

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

Josh will send out the Warrant for signatures by DocuSign.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

Items for the next agenda:

Bridge St. Final Report

Don's water tank report

Tues. Sept. 8th next meeting date

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM