

Water Commission Minutes
4/20/2020

Called to Order: 6 PM

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

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.; Connie Bona, Finance; and Angelica Contis recorded the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15; others present: Dan Noyes, Bryan Currier

1. Welcome by Bard. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. -none

3. Other Business -none

A. Consideration of approval of water and wastewater allocations for 39 Bridge St.

Moved to the next meeting.

B. Consideration of approval of preliminary water and wastewater allocations for 75 Whistle Stop Ln.

Josh reported that this was a preliminary water and sewer allocation request for 40 office workers. That the owner will come back for formal approval as this is basically a hold until the project is completed.

Discussion included:

- that Dan Noyes wants to build an office building.
- that there will be one meter servicing three tenants
- that ultimately there will be 3 meters, one servicing each building being constructed
- that if there are 3 tenants than there will be 3 fixed charges billed

David moved to approve the preliminary water and wastewater allocations for 75 Whistle Stop Ln., Fran seconded. Roll call vote, David, Fran, Don, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively.

C. Discussion of sewer extension to 91 Willis Farm Rd.

Discussion included:

- Don asking if a reduced rate would be considered for the Reaps due to the financial investment of expanding the system being so high with the result benefiting all the users?
 - o Bard asked if Dan Noyes should then also get a reduced fee to be fair?
 - o Dan thought if that was the policy then it should apply to everyone.
 - o Kendall responded that it has not been done this in the past.
 - o Don stated that unlike Dan Noyes building the Reaps are extending the system and that it is what is different.

- Bard responded that if the Reaps are looking for rate relief they should petition the board for consideration.
- Fran was reluctant to give anyone an advantage since whenever a new customer hooks up to the system benefits all the users
- Katie would like to see how treating some customers differently would look in the future, what the impact would be
- Don Noyes stated that if it keeps the rates “affordable” then everything should be kept the way it is. He said rates in Richmond are not reasonable compared to other communities, that he pays much more in Richmond than in other places.

D. Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project

Josh reported:

- that things are changing daily due to new information out of the Governor’s office.
- that the project would not be starting Wednesday
- that the schedule has been pushed back due to the 2 persons on any job site rule that the Governor has mandated
- that Steve Palmer believes that construction will start 5/4/2020
- that the Town is looking for guidance from the state about the start date
- that all supplies for the project are here or on the way so once we have green light to begin the project we are shovel ready.

Discussion included:

- Don asking if there is a risk to the funding due to delays? Josh replied that deadlines are being extended due to COVID.
- Bard noted unprecedented flexibility from the Federal government that has never seen before while everyone is trying to keep the economy and projects going.

E. Consideration of approval of language to amend the current water rule

Josh reported that amending water rule would allow the Water Superintendent authority to shut off water on a private line that was connected to the Town system if it was necessary.

David moved to adopt the water rule as written, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: David, Fran, Don, Bard, and Katie all voted affirmatively.

Josh will send the document out with DocuSign for commission members to sign.

F. Review of FY21 Budget

Josh reported on the April 2020 Water Budget indicating that Kendall & Connie have updated some of items and that those updates resulted in keeping things fairly flat.

Discussion included:

- Bard stating that the payment of water & sewer bills as well as property taxes will define how taxpayers are doing financially.
- Department heads will be asked to look at what expenses can be cut if it became necessary. In doing so now information will be readily available if a decision needed to be made quickly.

- All commission members agreed to have a budget meeting on April 27, 2020 at 6pm to have a longer discussion on the budget.

Commission members will send questions related to the budget to be answered at the next meeting to Josh, Connie or Kendall.

G. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that the full staff is working
- that septage from haulers has increased
- that staff is prepping for the Bridge St infrastructure project
- that a study the Town was selected for had 0 Covid markers in the water sample tested showing that social isolation has slowed the virus' progression thru the population.
- that staff received cloth face masks from a community member
- that there are less wipes in the septage

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

A) Minutes:

Dave moved to approve the Minutes of 4/6/2020, Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don, Bard, Katie, David, and Fran voted affirmatively.

C) Warrants:

Fran thought warrants looked fine.

David moved to approve the Warrant, Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, 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 St. update

Annual meeting 5/19/2020

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:02

