

Special Meeting of the
Water Commission Minutes
11/08/2021

Members Present in person: Jay Furr, Greg Tucker
Members by Zoom: Bard Hill, David Sander, Fran Huntoon
Absent:

Staff Present in person: Josh Arneson, Town Manager
Staff Present by Zoom: Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Kendall Chamberlain, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Linda Parent, Town Clerk

Others Present in person: Heidi Bormann, Peter Bormann, and the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15

Others Present by Zoom: Virginia Clarke, Bob Reap

Called to Order: 6:01 PM

1. Welcome by David who welcomed Greg Tucker the new Board member.

Public Comment-

Doug Connelly of 251 Bridge Street said he has been negatively impacted by the construction taking place on Bridge Street. He said it has been frustrating having his house vibrating, the road torn up, and the water coming out of the hose is smelly and disgusting. He wanted to know that his driveway and lawn would get fixed. David responded that the project is to fix an old line that was beyond its life expectancy and that he would make certain someone was in touch to see that his concerns were addressed. He explained that the nights discussion was related to the district expansion. Josh welcomed him to Richmond and thanked him for his patience. Josh said connections should be done shortly adding at the end of the project, probably in the spring because of the time of year, his concerns would be addressed. Kendall said that during construction water was free and the new line was done so over the next few days the connections should be made, then the paving. Doug C. said appreciated communication from the Town, Josh offered to get him on the email group that would provide status updates. Doug C. said he had been checking the town website and FPF for information.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda- none

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Discussion of preparations for vote to expand Water and Sewer District

Josh reviewed the information for the meeting including discussion at each point:

- that the meeting would take place at CHMS on 12/7 at 6:30PM
- that the meeting could not be done virtually per statute
- that wearing masks would be required per school policy and governors recommendation dated 11/4/2021
- that all registered voters who reside in the current and proposed expanded districts were eligible to vote, business owners who own property, but do not live in the proposed or expanded district, are not eligible to vote.

- that the eligible voters and others attending the meeting would be separated upon entering the auditorium to make the voice vote easier
- that the eligible voters may call for a paper ballot vote.
- that the question being voted on was read and is included in the warning
- that if the vote passes it would not mean the expansion would take place in its entirety but could be done in stages at different times or not at all
- that the meeting was the first in many steps before any expansion including a bond vote
- that the costs and timing for the expansion were reviewed
- that if the expansion were to go by a property the owner would be required to join the system
- that having an FAQ sheet might be helpful, Josh thought having one document would be best and would work on creating the document
- that the document links were looked at and some components of those documents would be incorporated into the single document Josh was creating
- that Bard thought letting voters know how the expansion would affect the rates was important
- that development in the gateway is up to Zoning, Planning and the DRB
- that Josh thought with the feedback from tonight the document would be ready for next week.
- that at the meeting Josh would have a PowerPoint presentation, then some of the background would be presented, Jay thought having Virginia, from the Planning Commission there to help field questions would be helpful. Bard thought adding some of the Planning Commission's key points to the document could be helpful. Bard said looking at the previous vote's presentation could be helpful also
- that Jay thanked Josh for all the work and effort he put into the presentation. David asked if Josh needed any Commission assistance. Greg said the last time people were not informed and were upset when they got hit with a big bill. Bard said the revolt was when the rates were the same for a long time and then after an extended period of time there was a water tank that needed to be replaced and line repairs and the deferred maintenance caught up, then the Creamery left, bills went up and people took notice.

4. Discuss Items for Next Agenda- none

Adjourn

Bard moved to adjourn; Jay seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, Greg, David, Jay, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.