

Water Commission Minutes
10/18/2021

Members Present in person: Jay Furr, June Heston
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: 6:00 PM

1. Welcome by Fran

Public Comment- none

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda- none

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Consideration of approving the request to change the water meter location at 282 West Main St.

Josh reported:

- that this was discussed at the last regular meeting and was a very long line with four (4) meters located at the residences and there had been concerns about not reading the vault meter. At a follow up meeting the Bormann's suggested removing the vault and meter and having the four (4) meters read with independent bills for each meeting coming from the Town.
- that the Bormann's installed the same meters that are used by customers

Discussion included:

- that Heidi Bormann asked for a punch list for her plumber so they would know what exactly was needed. Kendall said that someone from the department would need to be present during the work
- that David appreciated everyone working together to come to a resolution and noted that everything was up to Town requirements.

Jay moved to allow the Bormann's to remove the meter vault for the water service to 282 West Main St. and to direct the Water Resources Department to read the four meters located at the building, which will be, or have been, installed to Town specification. As part of this agreement the Bormann's will keep the land above their private line clear of brush for two feet on either side of the line; June seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, June, Jay, David, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

b. Discussion of Gateway Sewer Expansion Project

1) Discussion of potential grants

Josh reported:

- that there were several grants that have been looked at and the NBRC grant, together with the US Economic Development Administration, was awarded for \$147,947 and the Capital Investment Grant was determined to be for private businesses and Peter Brown was looking into it for the mobile home park, he said that ARPA funding and ARPA Solutions for mobile home parks was looked into and that the town ARPA funds would need to be used.

Discussion included:

- that Bard said there may be additional federal infrastructure money from the Infrastructure and Jobs Act, Kendall added that there could be a grant for Village Water and Wastewater that he was looking into also.
- that Fran asked about the town ARPA funds, Josh replied the Town would receive directly \$1.2 million dollars over the next two years with half already received. There are guidelines related to how the money can be used and there had been a committee formed to look at the possibilities.
- that Peter Brown said he planned on meeting with an engineer after speaking with the state about the private business funding grant available. He said he would follow up with Josh after his meeting.

2) Discussion of vote to expand the water and sewer district

Josh reported:

- that there had been discussion about expanding the system including all three (3) phases of the expansion and extending to the town line in Williston and Jericho to allow the ability, but not necessarily the obligation, to build out to all the locations.

Discussion included:

- that Kendall said he emailed a map that showed the tax parcels to Josh, Josh displayed a map showing the expansion that was not the map Kendall had been working on. Kendall said his map showed the property boundaries and was a draft. Fran noted that properties with private roads would have to pay from the curb to their residences, June said if everyone were required then it would be a mandate to connect.
- that the resolution and warning would be voted on by the Selectboard
- that June asked about a start date for construction of the sewer, Josh did not have one, June said water has been talked about and if we start with sewer and then add water, she did not think customers should have to pay for another meter if water was then put in later. Fran asked if the meter used for metering a well would be the same for public water, Kendall said yes, if someone decided to put in a wastewater meter they would not need install a new meter and the commission would need to decide who paid. He said if anyone decided to have a wastewater meter they would need to have a different rate than the users with a water meter.
- that this meeting /vote would need to be in-person with a voice vote unless a paper ballot was called and would be similar to what happens at Town Meeting. June asked about COVID rules, Josh said the state of emergency expired and those rules expired with it, so now a voice vote is needed.

- that June asked if everyone in Phases 1-3 would be voting, Bard said it would be residents in the current system and potential users that would be voting
- that the Selectboard could revote the decision about how to pay for it whether by new users or all users since Rod West had brought it up again. David said prior commissions have said they desired potential expansion should benefit current users. Bard said it is all about the math, with potentially five (5) funding sources it is uncertain. Kendall replied that the 1992 Ordinance has very specific language about who pays for what. June asked for a copy of the Ordinance, saying a proposed motion would say proposed users would pay but if there was money available through grants she wondered if the Ordinance was a way to do that. Kendall said under #5 entitled "Cost Recovery for Sewers Expansion - The proposed users to be served by the expansion pay the entire cost of the expansion and upgrading of the SEWERS and wastewater - that Fran asked the commission if they were ready to ask the Selectboard to approve the vote and warning. After review Fran noted the timeline would put the date close to Thanksgiving and wanted to be certain people would be available for a vote. Bard thought the article was not clear about connecting, Josh said this was about the district expansion, then there would be another warning about connecting, Bard felt if he had financial concerns, he would vote the expansion down the way it was written, Josh said the warning could be reviewed with everyone who is voting beforehand since they have to be there to vote. facility determined necessary and adequate by the BOARD."
- that Christine read information Linda Parent put in the CHAT regarding 867 people being eligible to vote and vote 45 days and first Tues in Dec would be a date that could work, Josh said if it was warned the first Tues of Nov the vote would be almost two (2) weeks after Thanksgiving. Bard said there should be a space that can hold hundreds of people for the vote, Josh said the school was available providing we were out by 9PM for cleaning
- that Fran noted that if there is more than one legal voter in a household, they all could vote, Jay was concerned about the wording for who was eligible to vote. Josh was going to check with the town attorney for wording.
- that only resident users, not business users were eligible to vote.

Jay moved to have the Selectboard approve the Warning and vote for the district expansion; Bard seconded. Roll call vote: June, Jay, David, Bard and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Discussion continued:

- that Linda had a checklist, but rentals would be a question, and separating the audience into who was eligible to vote and who was not eligible should not be a problem.
- that the meeting /vote would be Dec. 7th 6:30PM at the school

c. Review of FY22 first quarter financial reports

Josh reported:

- that the information was provided in the packet.
- that the Delinquent Account balance was under \$1
- that septage income was still very strong

This topic may be discussed further at another meeting

d. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that the big pipe on Church Street was in and services should be done by end of the week
- that he thanked all the neighbors for working together and with the department
- that meter repairs being done
- that the department has been getting ready for winter
- that hydrant flow tests were scheduled for this week

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

June moved to approve the Minutes of 10/4/21; Jay seconded. Roll Call Vote: David, Bard, June, Jay, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Bard moved to approve the Minutes of 10/12/21; Jay seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, Jay, and David voted affirmatively; June abstained as she was not present. Motion passed.

Purchase Orders- none

Warrants

June moved to approve the warrant as presented; Jay seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, June, Jay, David, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Josh will send warrant out by Docusign for signatures.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

FY 22 financial reports in more detail

no meeting until Nov 1 in two weeks

recruitment of a User for the board since June is in a "User" seat

Adjourn

June moved to adjourn; David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, June, Bard, David, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7 PM.