

Water Commission Minutes
11/15/2021

Members Present in person: Jay Furr,

Members by Zoom: Bard Hill, David Sander, Fran Huntoon, Greg Tucker

Absent:

Staff Present in person: Josh Arneson, Town Manager

Staff Present by Zoom: Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Kendall Chamberlain, Water & Sewer Superintendent;

Others Present in person: the meeting was recorded for MMCTV
Channel 15

Others Present by Zoom: Meg & Shawn Freebern, Ian Bender, Rod West, Erik Bailey

Called to Order: 6:02 PM

1. Welcome by David

Public Comment-

Meg Freebern spoke for their household saying they lived on Governor Peck Rd. and wanted to maintain the fully functioning water and septic systems they currently have. She said their systems are not in danger of failing and did not want to have the water district expansion come to them and be forced to join any expansion. David said they would respond to her comments when the topic came up on the agenda.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda- none

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Welcome to new Commissioner Greg Tucker

David welcomed Greg Tucker to the Commission. Greg said he has lived in the village for 19 years, is retired, and he likes living in Richmond.

b. Review of informational document for vote to expand Water and Sewer District

Josh reported:

- that the feedback from the last meeting was used to update the informational document and the document was reviewed
- that the document would be posted on the town's website

Discussion included:

- that Meg Freeman asked about the Bond repayment asking if it was all users or just new users that would be repaying the costs. Josh replied that it would be the new users.
- that Josh asked if there should be a mailing to all the potential voters, Jay supported doing a mailing, David, Bard and Fran thought sending out the details to encourage participation
- that Greg asked if the mailing would go to all residents or the users only. Josh said it would go to all users and potential users. He asked if the entire document with all the additional information being available on the website was acceptable to the Commission.
- that the document can be printed two sided

- the document and warning will be mailed out during the week

c. Follow up on timeline for construction of sewer line

Josh reported:

- that he and Kendal spoke with Green Mountain Engineering's, Steve Palmer, and asked about construction, Steve advised that there should be a scope defined, then beyond Phase 3 the flows could be established to determine any plan changes. Kendall said what happens at the vote will determine what happens. Bard observed that the Commission has said they would not be seeking to build where people did not want the expansion, but Phases 1 & 2 have people that want the service, and Phase 3 could be factored with minor changes. Bard said there is no way to reasonably sort out plans beyond Phase 2 but thought Phases 1 & 2 should be constructed with the idea Phase 3 might be built at a future time. Meg said she felt she was heard and was looking at the costs that are very high and 100x what they currently pay. Bard said there had been no discussion about going up Governor Peck Rd. Meg asked why Governor Peck Road was included in the expansion. Meg wanted Governor Peck Road to be removed from the expanded zone. The Commission said that having the expansion vote did not mean everyone had to hook up. Meg asked about when they would have to hook up. Bard responded that at some future point the line passed a property they would have to expand. Meg asked if there was a need in the future would it be voted on at that time. Bard said it would also depend on capacity. He said if a property owner in Phase 2 did not want to have the line and the majority voted for it then there would be no choice but to connect. Bard noted that in 1968 the district was started and there are some properties that were still not connected. Meg said she and her husband wanted to reserve the right to make the choice for themselves. Bard said there was not a way to predict the future and having a line takes time.
- that Rod West offered to chat with Meg about why people in Phase 2 were looking forward to the expansion. He said he had been involved in the discussions and had a perspective that might be useful to her. Meg appreciated his offer.

d. Review of Clean Water State Revolving Fund with regards to failed septic systems

Josh reported:

- that he had heard from a resident that they had a failed septic system, he reached out to CSWRF and asked if one failing system would provide assistance, their response was that one would not help and that there would be no other alternative but to have a public line

Discussion included:

- that Bard said there are some funding unknowns and that grants could make the cost less, if anything more was known from funding sources from the federal government, he would like to know about them. Josh said there was nothing known yet.
- that Joy Reap asked if the ARPA Committee would be approached. Bard said the ARPA Committee was creating criteria and then would solicit ideas that would be brought to the Selectboard. Jay added that the ARPA Committee would not be making decisions but setting criteria for rating projects. Josh said Kendall sent him a letter for the project to be considered for ARPA funding. Bard said it was safe to say it was on the list but whether it would be funded was another question.

e. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that the new Bridge Street waterline was complete and water testing has been done
- that PFAS testing showed no PFAS were found
- that the Route 2 upgrade would include raising some manhole covers and risers
- that the septage fee should be increased due to polymer costs going up, Kendall felt .06 cents as of Jan. 1 should be the target
- that the department has been preparing for winter

Discussion included:

- that Bard asked if there was a percentage that polymers have gone up, Kendall said he would provide that at the next meeting
- that Fran was pleased that the Bridge Street project was getting wrapped up
- that Bard asked if the timeline for paving was known, Josh said it may be done later this week, Kendall agreed.

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Fran moved to approve the Minutes of 11/01/21; Greg seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, Jay, and David voted affirmatively; Fran & Greg abstained. Motion passed.

Fran moved to approve the Minutes of 11/08/21; Bard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, Greg, Jay, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Purchase Orders- none

Warrants

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

Josh will send warrant out by Docusign for signatures.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

potentially increasing septage rates

Adjourn

Jay moved to adjourn; Bard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, Greg, Fran, Jay, and David, voted affirmatively. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.