

Water Commission Minutes
2/01/2021

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

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

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Marian Mumford, Peter Mumford, Peter Brown, Cathleen Gent, Kicketro, Katie Loesel, Rod West, David Thomas, Matt Tourville, Bob Reap
the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15

1. Welcome by Bard. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. None

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Discussion of expansion of sewer system into the Gateway District

1) Update on progress for Preliminary Engineering Report

Public Comment: Cathleen Gent asked about the source of funds for the engineering report. Bard referred her to the Minutes of the last meeting. She said she had seen them. Bard said the Commission voted to approve the expenses. Bard said he believed the Town would get 50-50% funding adding there is no other source of funds other than from the users. Cathleen said it was her understanding was that current users were not going to pay for the expansion costs when the engineers report is being paid for with that money.

Discussion included:

- that Katie had the same question. Bard responded that the Commission makes decisions and with the promise of expansion, the funds would help the current users in the long run. Cathleen said that this is very different than what has been discussed in the past. Bard suggested that this could be a warned topic of discussion at a future time.

Josh reported:

- that there will be a report on both contemplated routes approved at the last meeting
- that an RFQ was issued and is being updated to ensure we are in compliance with funding source procedures
- that a few engineers were selected and interviewed adding Green Mountain Engineering (GME) was chosen for this project
- that GME can meet our deadlines and did the preliminary report a few years ago

- that the price has not been determined but \$20,000 has been approved
- that a waterline has been included in the report in case there is a decision to add one later.

Discussion included:

- Bard asked if the Board needed to expand the motion to include water. Josh said he could ask GME to provide the net difference in cost. Kendall said there would be no changes from the original design work done and he did not think it would cost more. Josh said he would talk to Green Mountain about it and come back to the board at the next meeting. The board agreed, Bard said that procedurally that would be the thing to do. Don said he wondered about the schedule, the drawings and construction, asking if that be part of the information that was requested. Josh responded that this is a preliminary report to see if the project will qualify for funding in the future. The schedule to submit is Feb. 25, 2021 but it may be that April is when more details are available. Bard added that the sequence of events is being outlined and without the preliminary engineering report those items cannot be done. Bard suggested that since Don has project management experience, he might like to join the meeting that will outline the defining schedule to proceed or not.
- Kendal said that realistically phase 1 is the only phase that will happen this year according to Tom Brown. Katie asked at what point we would need to know if the mobile home park is interested in hooking up. Bard said that those are the considerations for Brown, cost and timing. Peter Brown said the biggest expense will be installing the lines to the homes within the park.
- that ACT 179 applies to the mobile home park and could help with the mobile home park's expenses
- that the Reap's have the only approval for district expansion. Bard asked Kendall to start a list of items that would need to be checked off knowing that it will evolve over time
- that Katie will send Peter Brown the ACT 179 information, Peter provided his email address
- that starting the next meeting earlier on Tues. Feb 16 would provide more time
- that Kendall said there is money available for funding
- that David said that when thinking of this project in phases, the Reap phase could happen with future expansion years later. Bard agreed.

2) Other topics related to the expansion of the sewer system

See above.

b. Update on West Main St. waterline project

Josh reported:

- that the project went out to bid and bids are due back on Friday, there will be an update at the next meeting.

Discussion included:

- that Don asked what the cost for the water line for West Main was. Kendall said that the cost is paid by the users. Don said \$120,000 to the customers. Josh said there is reserve money that will go toward this. Kendall agreed. Don asked how much of the reserve will be used. Josh said the amount was going to be spread out over the two (2) reserve funds. Don wondered if we should wait on this with the sewer line expansion with the Reap's and the sewer expansion is more important.

- that Don asked if there was some benefit to doing the project now. Josh said the determination was that the costs would outweigh the benefits so moving forward with paying for it would be best. Bard said that decision was made at the Nov. 2 meeting. Katie asked Don if he was concerned with the cost or having roads torn up. Don said he felt the Route 2 expansion was more important. Bard suggested having this as a topic at the next meeting. Bard would like to have this on a timeline with funding. Katie agreed.

c. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that the truck needed some repair and had it undercoated
- that there was a pump station that went down
- that there was damage to another pump, it will be retooled locally
- that septage is steady
- that they are gearing up for the phosphorus study
- that we are on the list for 75% funding for the lower Bridge St project
- that other funding information is still being waited on

Discussion included:

- that Fran encouraged having some safety protocol at the manhole. Kendall said that is what normally happens and did happen but not soon enough
- that Don wondered if we have a five (5) year plan for replacement of equipment. Kendall said there is a short term ten (10) year replacement that is part of the town's plan. Don said he is looking for major expenditures, \$50,000 and above. Bard said that since Don has been on the Board there has not been a report done. Kendall said that Aaron could come in and do a presentation. Bard would like to have this at a future meeting which will need to be a longer meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Order

Minutes:

David moved to approve the Minutes of 01/19/2021; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

Purchase Orders: none

Warrants:

David moved to approve the warrant as presented; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, David, Don, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

West Main St.

Preliminary update on report

Timeline for expansion

Asset management inventory will be in March

Discussion included:

- that Kendall asked if there should be a warned time for any residents that want to send letters related to the expansion, Bard said they would be welcomed at any time.

6. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Don, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:57PM.