

Water Commission Minutes
9/20/2021

Members Present in person:

Members by Zoom: Bard Hill, David Sander, Fran Huntoon, June Heston

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: Rod West, Adam Wood, Virginia Clarke, Bob Reap, 802-752-6127

Called to Order: 6:00 PM

1. Welcome by David

Public Comment- none

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda- none

3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present

a. Consideration of preliminary water and sewer allocation request for JR0280

Josh reported:

- that the request is for preliminary allocation and usually there is a 60-day time period to request final allocation but this request is for 120 days to final allocation

Discussion included:

- that Kendall said there is enough capacity
- that Adam Wood said he had no further information, that everything was contained in his application

Fran moved to approve the preliminary water and sewer allocation for JR0280 and extend the time period to request final allocation to 120 days from today; June seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, June, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

b. Review of Special Meeting on Gateway Sewer Expansion project, discussion of next steps, and review of project timeline

Josh reported:

- that there was a special meeting held for questions and to provide information to residents regarding the proposed expansion
- that there was a lot of interest in having water be included in the proposed expansion.
- that he had heard from J Hutchins who wished to have services out to their property as well as hearing from Linda Donovan by email that Lucky Spot would like to have service also
- that questions about what the mobile home park connections are needed to be addressed with Mr. Brown

- that there has been a question raised about allocating any bond payment to property owners that do not have buildings yet since it would improve their property values

Discussion included:

- that Bard said he was glad to see people interested in expanding the district beyond what was being proposed as well as interest in having water included adding that the scope of the work would need to be expanded if those were to happen
- that June noted the need for a correction to the Minutes to reflect a change from the word "park" to "station" for phase two.
- that David agreed there was a need for a conversation with Mr. Brown and next steps
- that there are some changes needed to the preliminary report
- that Kendall suggested that properties with no buildings should not be included in the bond payback, Bard asked if any other vacant lots are charged any fees for water or sewer, Kendall said we do not, unless there has been an allocation allotted for the property, David thought there would need to be a discussion related to properties that build in the future, Bard thought the Commission should follow the practice that has been in place
- that Fran thought as next steps it should be considered whether to include water in the project and whether to extend beyond the mobile home park. She noted that there are some wetlands that would need to be considered. Josh added that a study would need to be done before the end of October or it could not be done until April, Bard said that construction could be done to a point with expansion included in the plans so as to be done in a way that would allow extending the lines in the future. Bard said we could pursue Phases 1-3 and contemplate expanding and adding water at a later date or wait to do both since we have been talking about it for two (2) years now. David asked if there would need to be changes to the plans for expansion beyond the mobile home park or was it designed for expansion. Kendall said he would like to check with the engineer. Fran was interested in whether there was economy of scale if water was added to the project. Rod West thought the expansion decision should be made, then worry about the details. He thought once the water sewer district was broadened future plans would be considered extensions making grant funding easier. He asked if there were any downsides to having the expansion go as far as possible. June said the risk of having a vote with too many options could have unintended consequences. She thought having the expansion approved should include the details for the people to vote.
- that Virginia Clarke thought that Rod West's suggestion to expand widely would be advantageous for granting programs and to consider planning in any of the areas water should be included.
- that Fran asked about the timeline for warning a vote, Josh said about five (5) weeks plus a week or two for the paperwork to be set so about seven (7) weeks from today. Bard suggested the topic come back next week with language for the Article to be approved. Josh, Kendall, and the town attorney will come up with the language.
- that Kendall thought the district should be expanded as broadly as possible, Bard wanted the map updated for clarity, David said the district would go beyond the three (3) phases that were being discussed. Bard noted that Linda should know so that the list of potential voters could be updated.

- that June asked if our engineer was going to look at the conditions in the mobile home park, David said that our interest stops at the curb stop, Kendall said that there are questions that need to be answered.

c. Update on Bridge St. Waterline Replacement Project: Church St. to Volunteers' Green

Josh reported:

- that this was a five (5) to six (6) weeklong project
- that traffic would be reduced to one (1) lane at times

Discussion included:

- that Kendall thought the contractor is going to use portable traffic signs to manage traffic
- that Kendall said the Commission needed to decide where to put the project sign, Josh said it may go in front of Town Center

d. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that the tank inspection went well, and he had a DVD he would make available to the commission if they were interested
- that the Bridge St project was on-track
- that the department was getting ready for the change of seasons

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Fran moved to approve the Minutes of 9/7/2021; Bard seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, June and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Fran moved to approve the Minutes of 9/13/2021 amended as discussed; June seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, June, and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Warrants

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

Josh will send warrant out by DocuSign for signatures.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

Warning for expansion wording

Bridge St. waterline replacement update

Adjourn

Fran moved to adjourn; June seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Bard, June and David voted affirmatively. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:51PM.