

## Water Commission Minutes 9-16-19

Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Christy Witters, Fran Huntoon, Don Morin, Kendall Chamberlin, Josh Arneson, Jessica Draper

Called to Order: 6:00pm

Public Comment: NA

Changes to the Agenda: Update about bees, an update about VOSHA, and Discussion of email communications

Stone Corral, Policy and Bill: Josh explained that this was a follow up from the previous meeting and other previous discussions about Stone Corral wastewater billing. He also explained that there is a new policy and a detailed invoice prepared with some minor changes. Bard suggested that the Stone Corral folks comment or come to the next meeting to express any concerns or questions about the draft policy. Don said that he's on the fence about setting a precedent. Kendall said that he does do readings quarterly and there is little room for them to adjust their own numbers in the interim between quarterly readings. Don said he just wanted to make sure we weren't setting a precedent for other users to ask to self report. Bard suggested the policy be proposed as final at the next meeting.

Bridge Street Infrastructure: Josh gave an update that the bond paperwork is complete and will be voted on at the selectboard meeting tonight. Kendall explained that we have passed archaeological review for the bridge. Don asked what the tentative timeline is. Kendall explained that the bids will likely open in December, and looking at summer 2020 implementation. Don said he spoke to some property owners and tenants as well as construction companies about the upper Bridge St project. Don said that Dennis Bender said he was not aware of it and a few people are asking questions about it. Bard said this has to do with his email communications topic, because he thinks the open ended questions via email may be cumbersome to town employees. Bard said he felt that the water commission should be legislating, and the staff should be making executive decisions. Don said that he thinks everyone on the board wants what's best for the village, but that people were not contacted. Bard said he feels like the board is transparent, and reaching out directly is a separate step. Don said he feels like they should have been contacted. Kendall said that their service comes from Depot St so he did not feel that a Bridge St change warranted contacting them. Discussion ensued about water line services for the Bender block from the back and the front. Josh presented an info sheet to go with the bond vote.

Commission Calendar: Discussion ensued regarding the elements of the calendar and potentially presenting the budget differently in the town report. Christy asked for an update about the digitizing project. Kendall said there should be a presentation at the next meeting.

Goals and Mission Statement: Fran said that she had comments on system improvements regarding certain case by case situations. Fran also commented that she felt that some of the payscale changes should help with turnover. Don said that he now thinks there may be too many goals in the original document. He said he felt that updating records is one of the main goals, and that working as a team and communicating is also a main goal. Don said he felt that we should not pay bills in full when expectations are not met. Bard commented that he thinks the goal should be to change policies that in turn improve the process. Discussion ensued regarding the hydrant plug issue at the school.

Superintendent's Report: Kendall announced that Montpelier will be shutting down for receiving for a few months and Richmond will be receiving a lot of what they can't take. Kendall also announced that there will be PFOS and PFOA testing upcoming and could cost a few thousand dollars. He said that a positive test of a certain level will result in an immediate do not drink protocol and potentially expensive immediate treatment. .

Minutes: David moved to approve the minutes from 9-3-19, seconded by Christy. All were in favor, so moved.

Communications: Bard said he has been thoughtful about town staff and the frequency of emails from board members. He thinks a meeting or a phone call may be more efficient.

VOSHA: Josh explained there will be a meeting on 9-30-19 to present the upgrades made by the town in response to violations. The fines have totaled around \$8000 for the town overall, so they are hoping for some fine reductions at this meeting. The commission authorized Josh to agree to lower fines.

Next Agenda: Stone Corral, Goals, Bridge Street Users, VOSHA, Asset Management Presentation

Adjourn: David moved to adjourn, seconded by Christy. All were in favor, adjourned 7:01pm.