

## Water Commission Minutes 10-21-19

Present: Bard Hill, David Sander, Don Morin, Fran Huntoon, Josh Arneson, Kendall Chamberlin, Jessica Draper, Jack Linn, Denise Barnard, David Sunshine, Mary Houle, Katie Mather

Called to Order: 6:02 pm

Public Comment: None

**Review and Vote on Apprenticeship Program:** Josh presented the apprenticeship program for the water and sewer profession. Josh explained that there would need to be a wage adjustment and there are benchmarks along the way to check progress. He also explained that the person in the program would gain training at a faster pace than our usual training program. Josh showed an amended paygrid with 3 new grade placements that would fit the program needs. Kendall explained the program is being sponsored by the Department of Labor and that this incentivizes employees. Bard clarified that instead of annual raises this would be twice annually. Bard also clarified that there would not be any backslicing on the grid. Don asked if any other towns have participated. Kendall said this is brand new. Don asked if you combine the benefits with the salary hours what the rates would be. Josh and Jess commented that it varies but it can be \$10-\$20 per hour in addition. Kendall explained it also saves the town training costs, because the apprenticeship program covers some of the costs. Bard said he wanted consensus that the commission understands that this is a new method of pay increases. Jess suggested putting this in the personnel policy to cover the difference in paygrid use. Fran moved to approve the paygrid changes, seconded by David. All were in favor, so moved.

**Bridge St Business Block:** Bard explained that he contacted Denise and wanted to set up a specific meeting to discuss the upper block. David Sunshine clarified that his building is not owned by Mr. Bender. He also said that he has the only sprinkled building and Kendall mentioned that he has a 6in pipe. They clarified that a previous occupant was a woodshop and that is what triggered the sprinkler. Discussion ensued about what the project entails. Denise said she thinks it's sad that the line for the businesses has stayed private after years of upgrades. Bard said he thinks the conversation would be more productive offline, and wants the users to come with proposals and the commissioners to come well-informed of town policies. Then the result would be potential solutions and requests to the commission or town. Don said that he wants to proceed in a direction where we aren't going across private land, and wants to pursue this district wide. Bard asked Josh to coordinate the meeting with Don, Bard, Kendall, and owners. Denise said that none of the other Bridge St folks know about the project. Bard said that efforts have been made to contact owners. Denise requested that something more direct be done via email or in person. Discussion ensued about communication plans.

**Budget Status Review:** Josh passed out a memo that discusses the current status of the FY20 Water and Wastewater Budget. He read aloud the main numbers. Bard requested the fund balances for FY18 and FY19. Josh asked if the draft budget was okay for the town report.

Discussion ensued about whether or not to include the FY21 or just FY20. The commission agreed to do a flyer-style page in the report with a call-to-meeting and some major upcoming ideas.

Superintendent's Report: Kendall announced that Richmond 100% passed the new PFAS PFOS testing. The state is changing the rule due to complaints to be a little more manageable but should not be an issue for Richmond either way due to our 100% clean results. Kendall also noted that the Fire Department will be participating in a tanker brigade test to reduce the town's ISO rating. Kendall said septage is going really well, and they're weighing options to replace the pickup. He also noted they are looking into potentially acquiring acoustic testing equipment, and a few other equipment upgrades. Kendall announced that Tyler Bouska was hired for the fourth position in the department so they are now fully staffed. Fran asked if Kendall can ask the truckers to turn their engines off when they are waiting to dump septage.

Minutes:

9-16-19: David moved to approve the minutes as amended. Seconded by Don. All were in favor, so moved.

10-7-19: David moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Don. All were in favor, so moved.

Next Agenda: Bridge St Business Block, Warrants and PO review, Communication of Projects to Users

Mary commented that there is a series of folks who purchases go through, including the Treasurer. Don said he felt he should still know more about the warrant before signing it.

David moved to adjourn. Seconded by Fran. All were in favor, adjourned 6:58pm.