

Water Commission Minutes

7/15/19

Called to Order: 6:00pm

Present: Don Morin, Fran Huntoon, Christy Witters, David Sander, Josh Arneson, Kendall Chamberlin, Jessica Draper, Mary Houle, Harland Stockwell, Greg Elias

Public Comment: NA

Agenda Changes: None

Fran inquired about the grant notification for the west main extension. Josh said we should be hearing soon. Don stated that he has personal goals as a member of the commission. He thanked Josh for creating well-detailed minutes. Josh clarified why Jessica will be here intermittently doing minutes for scheduling reasons. Don said he would like the commission to set goals for themselves and the commission agreed to set aside agenda time to create goals.

Paygrid Adjustments: Josh explained that this was a follow up to past discussions about restructuring the staffing levels in the Water Resources Department in order to better capture certifications and capabilities of the current and future staff. These are reflective of state certification levels. Kendall explained that this would also help to retain staff by providing upward mobility and proper raises. Josh mentioned that this would also help prepare existing staff to eventually take over seniority at the plant. Christy asked about how the grid is adjusted over time, and Josh explained that there is a 3.5% increase ceiling on raises. David Sander moved to approve the paygrid amendments and policy. Seconded by Fran Huntoon. All were in favor, Don Morin abstained.

CHMS Extension: Kendall explained that the project commenced today. Kendall asked the contractor to remove the hydrant plugs and they will be giving us prices.

Bridge Crossing: Kendall said they had a meeting with Green Mountain Engineering to discuss moving forward, and are meeting again soon. Kendall also said that Ashley Luct is working on getting Richmond a better deal on loan forgiveness. He also said that there is money available

for subsurface work on the rest of Bridge Street. Kendall gave a brief history of the Bridge St and Main St subsurface upgrade schedules. Don asked how long the construction process could be. Kendall estimated a few months if it were just the water, but it is ideal to do it all at once, unless it's cost prohibitive.

Superintendent's Report: Kendall said that septage receiving is still in good shape for our revenue and he's estimating we brought in 50% more than anticipated. He also said a pump failed and was fixed today. He provided an update about drier programs in Brattleboro and Hooksett. Kendall said they are going to be updating some meters, and that GMP is going to be trimming on Esplanade. He also said that VT Gas did the line inspection and no damage has been found so far. Kendall said that the state is going to be initiating the PFOS and PFOA testing. He said that Aaron is working on a database for the plant so that the admin department won't need to respond to inquiries as often. Kendall said that he has started working on the Stone Corral items from the June meeting. He said he will also be advertising for a new employee soon. Kendall commented that part of Richmond's cost is that we have modern infrastructure, while many other towns have not done major upgrades. Don asked about the landscaping plan for the water tank, and Kendall said that the plan has fallen to the wayside because it was over budget. Mary commented that she has the ability to supply donated shrubs for the landscaping and can have them ready in the spring if wanted. Fran pulled up the minutes from 6/17 regarding the Stone Corral billing. Kendall explained how he altered his bill for the most recent quarter.

Minutes: Fran moved to approve the 7/1/19 minutes. Seconded by David Sander. All were in favor, so moved.

Fran moved to approve the CSWD Purchase Order. Seconded by David Sander. All were in favor, so moved.

Next Agenda: Goal Setting, Grant Update, Josh asked if the Water Commission could start sooner on 8/5. The commission said they would.

David Sander moved to adjourn. Seconded by Fran Huntoon. All were in favor, adjourned 6:53pm.