

Water Commission Minutes  
11/16/2020

Called to Order: 6:01 PM

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

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Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Ed Fitzpatrick, and 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. Consideration of approval of changes to the Apprenticeship Program wage policy**

Josh reported:

- that Tyler Booska has given his notice and was enrolled in the apprenticeship program.
- that VT Rural Water said we would need to adjust our wages to continue in the program.
- that the new starting wage would be a min. of \$13.50 for 6 months, then increases are tied to certifications and are .50 per increment.
- that the apprenticeship program is now charging \$1,000 per year.

Discussion included:

- that starting anyone under \$13.50 would not comply with the program.
- that this would be an addition to the current payroll policies.
- that this is to reward and compensate an employee for increased knowledge and experience.

Katie moved to approve the changes to the Apprenticeship Program wage police; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Katie, Fran, David, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**b. Review of requested changes to consecutive sewer agreement at 91 Willis Farm and discussion of easement over Willis Farm Property**

Josh reported:

- that the commission had been working on an agreement with the Reap's.
- that the town attorney responded to the Reap's suggestions and that that the review will take time
- that expansion beyond the Reap's would not be possible with the current easement structure.

Discussion included:

- that there is a question about reimbursement by the owners to the Town
- that the possibility of expansion beyond this property has been key to the Board
- that the Land Trust easement impacts the agreement
- that Kendall thought the force main should be sized to go as far as the gas station
- that the Board had been talking about a single bill and that is not clear in the agreement
- that the Water & Sewer Commission should be the ones signing the agreement
- that the Board may want to keep the door open to making the private system a public system in the future
- that when considering the new state permit, are the Reap's aware of the limitations and would the approval of their system impact the town's system. Kendall replied it would depend on their usage adding that high phosphorus uses usually need a state permit. Bard said we may want to address rates and capacity if phosphorus users are part of what may happen.
- that the agreement is silent on phosphorus and the Board may want to be able to set allocations. Kendall said, that in the agreement, future connections require allocations.
- that more detailed discussions between smaller groups is going to be needed naming Kendall, the Richmond Land Trust, the Reap's, their attorney, Josh, Bard and Don was volunteered, if he is not able or unwilling, David said he would be "plan b" as the "smaller group" participants.
- that we should keep moving forward and have an initial meeting as soon as soon as possible.
- that Jeremy asked how far along the Reap's design plans are so he could get a sense of things. Bard said the Board's thought is that the easement is the element the Richmond Land Trust could be most useful in this undertaking. Jeremy said he has a board and would need to be getting back to them. Bard asked that the door not be closed to future integration into the system. Jeremy said he is happy to participate in the discussion and reach out to his board members.
- Josh will work on getting something scheduled.

**c. Notice of public comment period for draft discharge permit**

Kendall reported:

- that we have until Dec. 3 to respond to the discharge permit
- that if there is not any change the permit will go into effect on the first of the year and there will be increased costs for testing requirements. That Bard said we should look at the budget implications at a future meeting.

**d. Superintendent's Report**

Kendall reported:

- that septage is good
- that most reporting is going digital
- that he had unexpected news, that the facility PFAS testing showed a just over the detection limit result requiring an annual test as opposed to having one (1) every three(3) years.
- that it is hard to say where the increased PFAS came from.
- that Kendall was looking into if the PFAS levels were a temporary situation whether the testing could go back to every three (3) years.

- that he spoke to the state about using another type of sealer for the tank and received approval.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Order**

##### **Minutes:**

David moved to approve the Minutes of 11/02/2020; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Katie, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**Purchase Orders: none**

##### **Warrants:**

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

#### **5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn**

Willis Farm

future impact of testing requirements

#### **6. Adjourn**

David moved to adjourn; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Bard, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM.