

Water Commission Minutes  
11/02/2020

Called to Order: 6:01 PM

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

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Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; and the meeting was recorded for MMCTV Channel 15

**1. Welcome by Bard. No comments.**

**2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda.**

**3. Items for Presentation or Discussion with those present**

**a. Discussion of waterline replacement project on West Main St.**

Josh reported:

- that he and Kendall met with Green Mountain Engineering to look at ways to fund the waterline replacement project on West Main St. before VTRANS comes through to repave in 2022.
- that doing the project would require a bond vote.
- that the Water Capital Reserve Fund, with contributions for 2021, would have enough in it to do the project without a grant.
- that to move forward a motion was needed to get out to bid

Discussion included:

- that Kendall said the project does not address deficiencies so we probably would not get a grant.
- that \$160,000 is a significant amount of the total available funds
- that the project would go into another budget year so funding would be spread out
- that Don asked Kendall about the need for the construction. Kendall replied that the state will be re-paving and we need to replace the old water line from the 1940's so we don't have to repair the street to the new specifications.
- that without the 2021 contributions there would not be enough funds to do the project.
- that lines have been being replaced and this project has always been slated to go when the State was going to repave.

Fran moved to go forward with the addendum for the engineering with Green Mountain Engineering; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**b. Discussion of wastewater permit**

Kendall reported:

- that the responses received from the questions posed were very detailed.

Discussion included:

- that we are free to do whatever we need to do to fulfill the obligations of the permit
- that the next step is that the permit will go out for public review
- that there will be future challenges keeping to the lower phosphorus numbers
- that once we get to 80% of our threshold there would need an engineering report done
- that the goal is to stay under 80%
- that right now it is not an issue but that future expansions should take this into consideration.
- that changing zoning could make an impact and Ravi is aware of this
- that Katie wondered if there was a way of determining the phosphates. Bard asked if there is a formula for households? Kendall said, yes, that it is something we will have to look at once the new permit comes.
- that Don asked how much phosphorus we are removing, Kendall replied, 99.89% of phosphorus is being removed and we are at capacity.
- that Don asked if we increase users by 10% is that going to get us to our permit limit, Kendall replied that putting a surcharge on users to get them to reduce phosphorus might be necessary.
- that there will be a public notice, and that this will be discussed at future meetings

**c. Review of Sanitary Survey letter**

Kendall reported:

- that these letters are not given out easily

Discussion included:

- the phosphorescence is normal
- structural integrity is intact but will be monitored
- that the coating on the tank may need to be redone
- that Don is concerned that because the tank is above ground the with freeze thaw cycles major spalling could occur. He would like to understand what the fixes may be.
- that this will be a continued topic as inspections take place

**d. Discuss water tank inspection**

Josh reported:

- that the tank is scheduled for a complete inspection in 2021.

Discussion included:

- that this will probably take place in the summer of 2021
- that the inspection is interior and exterior

**e. Review of expenses for Bridge St. Infrastructure Replacement Project**

Josh reported:

- that this was a large project
- that the \$788,365.95 is eligible for 50% loan forgiveness
- that the overall cost of the project came in slightly under what was originally planned
- that we were able to get more done than anticipated

Discussion included:

that Kendall and Josh did a good job getting the project together and then through to completion

- that timing was perfect, the silver lining of COVID was less traffic
- that there were some change orders that were not in the original project
- that we will receive half of \$788,365. as loan forgiveness from the State.

**f. Update on Water and Sewer payments as of Sept. 30**

Josh reported:

- that there are 12 accounts overdue at less than \$5000. total

Discussion included:

- that nationally that is not the case, we are very fortunate the people are doing so well in these times.

**g. Update on expense and revenue report regarding payroll**

Josh reported:

- that these accounts are settled after the year end.
- that 70% goes to Wastewater and 30% to Water
- that overall salaries are at 23% right on target
- that OT is higher due to the Bridge St. project

Discussion included:

- that this is for the first Quarter
- that the budget is right where we should be
- that the 70-30 split is determined by the number of hours in each department

**h. Superintendent's Report**

Kendall reported:

- that septage continues to be robust
- that business as usual getting ready for winter
- that he would like to see port-a-lets at the park

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

**Minutes:**

Fran moved to approve the Minutes of 10/19/2020; David seconded. Roll Call Vote: Bard, David, Don, and Fran voted affirmatively; Katie abstained. Motion passed.

**Purchase Orders: none**

**Warrants:**

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

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

Reap's review – include the Land Trust

**6. Adjourn**

Fran moved to adjourn; David seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Bard, Don, Katie, and David voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:57PM.

