

Water Commission Minutes
2-3-2020

Called to Order: 6 PM

Members Present: Fran Huntoon, David Sander, Christy Witters, Bard Hill

Absent: Don Morin

Others Present: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Connie Bona, Finance; and Ruth Miller was present to videotape the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15; others present: none

1. Welcome by Christy. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. -none

3. Other Business -none

A. Discussion on updating the water ordinance

Josh provided the following information:

The 1961 Ordinance was looked at by Kendall and Aaron. It was decided that the Ordinance was actually Rules that were outdated. The current Rules are not available for conversion since it is available in PDF format only. As a result they looked at Montpelier's Ordinance and began a rewrite.

The discussion that followed included agreement that starting over will be a time consuming process that will take months. In terms of process, the Water & Sewer Commission would set criteria that would then need to be approved by the Selectboard. There is a question about whether the Town can amend the Rules then write an Ordinance. It was decided to ask VLCT about a short term fix that can be accomplished through amending the Rules and then begin an ordinance. Josh will follow up with VLCT on costs and questions. Kendall will check into Williston's and Hinesburg's Water & Sewer Ordinances to see if they can be used as a guideline. The Commission will be updated at the next meeting.

B. Update on status of Memorandum of Understanding regarding sewer service for 91 Willis Farm Rd.

It was discussed that if built to town specs the town could take over the sewer lines but has no obligation to do so. This will be discussed with the Reaps before the next Commission meeting and the Commission will be updated at the next meeting. It was noted that for the Reaps to hook up to the system there would need to be an MOU to address any future users.

C. Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project

Josh reported that a webpage on the Town website has been created for updating the public on construction and parking during the Bridge Street project. The Selectboard will also be shown the webpage at the meeting tonight and it will be announced on Front Porch Forum to let everyone know where to find updated information. He also reported that construction bids are due 2/14/2020 and a recommendation will be made to the Selectboard at the 3/2/2020 meeting. It was discussed that the Town Manager should have signing authority for decisions related to the Bridge St. project once a contractor has been selected.

Christy moved to provide Josh with signing authority for decisions once the contractor for the project has been selected, Fran seconded. All agreed.

D. Consideration of asking the Selectboard to increase the two waterline bond vote amounts by \$75,000 per bond

Fran made Motion to recommend to the Selectboard that they increase both amounts by \$75,000, Dave seconded. All agreed.

The discussion continued to include the possibility of soliciting a line of credit in the amount of \$500,000 to use and pay it back from reimbursements received as opposed to obtaining a bond anticipation note, another idea floated was to borrow the money internally and reimburse it. The Water & Sewer Commission thought these were good ideas. Josh will be presenting the ideas to the Selectboard.

E. Budget Status Report

Josh reported we are having a very good septage year due to other places being closed. Kendall feels that even once the other facilities reopen Richmond will still see haulers coming in due to Richmond's location.

F. Superintendent's Report

Kendall requested approval for replacing one of the trucks. Josh could approve under \$10,000 but looking for the Commission's approval.

Dave moved to approve replacing one of the trucks with a used truck under the amount of \$10,000.00, Christy seconded. All approved.

Kendall reported:

1. that everyone is still waiting on the PFAS rule changes adding that the Town may need to do 3 tests with "no detects" findings to receive a 6 year exemption from testing.
2. that the new hire is doing well and at the 6 month point for a salary increase.
3. that Buttermilk is progressing, that there is a meeting with them later in the week and the walk-thru he did went well.
4. that the Dan Noyes updated design looks good.
5. that the asset grant from the state he had previously reported on could not be applied for due to one having already been approved. Even so he was able to get 60% of the information needed from the state.
6. that septage never slowed down all winter. In the spring some haulers will utilize fields but have said they will return to Richmond.

There was a discussion about how to address the extra money made on septage for the year. There will be extra costs, but still a fair amount of money will remain. In the past it typically goes into the reserve. It was decided to think of it as a windfall as opposed to contributing it to income for future budgeting.

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

a. Dave moved to approve the minutes of 1/21/2020, Christy seconded. All agreed.

b. Dave moved to accept Purchase Order 3867 to Green Mountain Engineering for highway and water dept engineering, not to exceed \$105,700. Split 30-70%, Christy seconded. All were in favor.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda and Adjourn

Water & Sewer Ordinance

Reap's project

Bridge Street project

Request for new used truck

Next meeting will be at 6PM on 2/18, a Tues., due to the holiday on Monday.

Christy moved to adjourn, Dave seconded. All agreed, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.