

Water Commission Minutes
6/15/2020

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

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

Absent:

Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer Superintendent; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; and Angelica Contis recorded the meeting for MMCTV Channel 15; others present: none

1. Welcome by Bard. No comments.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda. none

3. Other Business

a. Update on Bridge St. Infrastructure Project and discussion of completing additional water main work on Bridge St.

Josh reported on construction:

- majority of work done on Upper Bridge Street complete
- 27 Bridge Street stormwater work will be done later in the week
- that the company will go back and do paving and sidewalks in a few weeks
- that this week attention is moving the replacing the lines under that bridge
- that the bridge will be one-way Thurs. and Fri. this week
- that the pedestrian walkway will remain open

Discussion included:

- Bard noticing that line demarcations had gotten weaker but are better again and lanes can be seen much better
- Kendall added a formal thank you to David Sunshine for the use of his auxiliary fire line so the block never lost water making the inter connections, only when the waterline broke. Bard noted that David put that line in at his own expense, so we owe him a thank you from the Commission on behalf of the customers that kept their water, so please do pass that on.
- David asked if the flaggers could prioritize cars coming off route 2 to keep traffic moving through the intersection.
- Fran suggested making sure flaggers have a plan for allowing emergency vehicles to get through the construction area. Bard agreed that asking about the plan would ensure that emergency vehicles can get through without delay. Josh will check into it.
- Don said that there was water shooting up over the electric poles the other day. He said that Kendall and his guys did a great job taking care of it and he was glad no one got hurt. He said it was like a river running down Bridge St. It was a tense moment. Kendall reported that there was an uncontrolled release of water that was brought under control due to a fitting breaking loose. There was a very short disturbance to customers who had low water pressure. When asked Kendall reported that there was about 100,000 gallons of water lost in about 15 minutes and that equates to a loss of

about 3' in the tank. Bard noted that a smaller tank would have been completely emptied.

Josh reported on the watermain:

- the engineer looked at the pricing from the contractor and we now have a quote from Hutchins.
- that the board had approved the additional spending provided that the pricing was the same as the original contract and came in within the amount set aside for contingencies plus \$10,000. Fran said that if the contingency money is not all used then we would not need to spend an additional \$10,000. Josh replied that we would not dip into the \$10,000 until we spent the \$104,718. that gets us up to the 50% forgiveness. He said anything over that number is when we start using the \$10,000 that would not be forgiven. He said that at this time it looks like we would be spending about \$50,000 for \$100,000 worth of work.

Discussion included:

- Bard saying it made sense to him and was consistent with previous discussions. He asked if when it came to landscaping and reestablishment of vegetation would it be possible for town staff to do it to be able to control it. He acknowledged it would mean using highway staff for a water/ sewer project. Kendall did not believe that could be done because of the type of funding for the project.
- that Fran thought it made sense to make use of the 50% forgiveness and that the only issue would be if we went over the contingency somehow. Bard asked if there was a way to know how much of the contingency would be spent on other things or does this decision need to be made before we can know that. Josh replied that in order to get the timing right we need to give the contractor the go ahead now adding the engineer has looked at it and thought that the most risky parts have already been done and there are very little unknowns and if something unusual happened then we might need to dip into the \$10,000. Bard thought that the risk was not 0 but was affordable within the context of available funds.
- Don asked what is wrong with coming in under budget unless we are looking at having more income or this money is going to result in some saving. It is not about whether it makes sense, he is thinking he may not vote yes. Bard responded that Kendall had spoken previously about the savings but also about future disruptions and the cost of them. Kendall said, if there is any leak from Jolina Court down to the bridge then everybody loses water, that he could not supply water to any of the customers. If this work is done, then he would be able to supply water to everyone but (4) four people on that line. Kendall added that the work that is proposed is less than the original estimate he received, and that traffic is already being disrupted and is less disruption than originally thought it would be. He said those were the benefits he saw to doing the work now.
- Bard asked how old the line that is there now. Kendall replied, one was put in around 1950 and the other in 1969. Don asked if there have been any breaks in that area. Kendall replied, there have been a total of (4) since he started work, he did not think there would be a leak there tomorrow, but he could guarantee there would be one.

Fran moved to approve PO 3975 to J Hutchins for \$100,406 contingent on receiving 50% forgiveness, Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Katie, David, and Bard voted affirmatively. Don abstained.

b. Superintendent's Report

Kendall reported:

- that a bill originating from Fish and Wildlife that is for 100% grants for septage receiving facilities, so he is going to keep close watch on that thinking about the dryer system that has had a cost analysis done previously.
- state notified him they are working on the wastewater permit and he anticipates changes based on the questions they are asking. He has heard from other towns that they have had to hire attorneys and engineers to things out with the state. He thinks Richmond should be ready to take that route. Bard noted that this sounded a bit adversarial, Kendall replied that it has been with some of the towns to the degree that the State is reevaluating some of the things they are putting in these permits. Bard asked if Kendall knew what the issues were. Kendall replied it could be a number of things, he just wanted to let the board know early on about it. Bard said it is the good part about not being first, that what is happening in other towns may be helpful to us.
- that the department has been taking in a lot of septage
- that in the construction process a lot of valves have been located and has been good training for the crew
- that meters are due to be read next week
- that there is a potential claim from shutting down the water on Pleasant St. to do the interconnection one of the residents had plenty of water beforehand and afterward they had no water. It turns out their pressure reducing valve failed so they were upset. Their plumber told them he felt it was due to the water being shut off. Kendall told them they could come to the board with a claim if they were inclined. Kendall added that historically anything beyond the meter has been the customers responsibility so this might be new ground. Bard thought the cost of replacing the valve would have been \$300-400. Kendall said they are asking for the cost of the valve so more like \$150. Josh added that the concern is that if we settle this claim then the next claim could be much more if we start covering things that are beyond the meter. Bard noted that there could be a number of scenarios where the water pressure could go up or down. Kendall said he thought we should follow the policies and involve the insurance carrier.
- Don asked about locating the valves/ curb stops. Kendall replied that we need to make sure we know where they all are because we need to use them. When the crew is out locating one, they look for the others and put valves on them too.
- Kendall urged the town to open the restrooms in the park. Josh responded that in order to open the restrooms we need to do a daily cleaning during the day and another at the end of day before locking them for the night. He is working on getting in touch with the cleaner to see what she can do and what would it cost. Bard asked about port-o-let instead of opening restrooms. Fran asked if those had the same restrictions for cleaning as restrooms. Josh responded that he didn't know but that the cleaner had been checking the restrooms during the day last summer so he didn't think it would be much more money.

4. Approval of Minutes, Warrants and Purchase Orders

Minutes:

- a. David moved to approve the Minutes of 5/18/20, 5/19/20, 6/1/20 Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don, Bard, David, and Fran voted affirmatively. Katie abstained. Motion passed.

B) Purchase Orders:

David moved to accept Purchase Order 3919 to increase the amount by \$55,375.10 to include the contingency for the Bridge St. project Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Don, Bard, Katie, David, and Fran voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

C) Warrants:

Fran thought warrants looked fine asking about an invoice for clothing. Kendall responded that his department has a clothing allowance of about \$300 a year.

David moved to approve the Warrants, Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed

Josh will send out the Warrant for signatures by DocuSign.

5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda

Reap property

Permit status

appointments to water & sewer commission

Bridge St. project

Superintendent's report

Emergency contact update

6. Adjourn

David moved to adjourn, Fran seconded. All agreed, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.