

Water Commission Minutes  
1/04/2021

Called to Order: 6:00PM

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

Absent: Don Morin

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Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; also present: Bob Reap, Rod West, and 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 to proceed with bond vote to construct the waterline replacement project on Bridge St. between the Bridge St. bridge and Church St**

Josh reported:

- that in the last few weeks, in discussion with the state, we learned they are accepting bids for 2020 that will have a loan forgiveness of 75%. The deadline for the application is 1/25/2021 and the construction permit has been applied for.
- that the project would go from Bridge Street to Church Street and fills in the piece not done with a total estimated cost of \$400,000
- that he was looking for approval to go to a bond vote from the Commission then with their approval the next step would be to get approval from the Selectboard

Discussion included:

- that Kendall said this is an exciting project because it would complete the section of line from the well
- that Bard asked what the next project would be after that is completed. Kendall said that this is the last of the critical lines that affect the town
- that this is for approval to move forward with the application and to send the recommendation to the Selectboard

David moved to send the Selectboard the Water Commissions approval for a bond vote, Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**b. Discussion of consecutive sewer agreement at 91 Willis Farm Rd. to include:  
1) Discussion of attendance at the January 7, 2021 Richmond Land Trust meeting**

Bard reported:

- that the conversation would take place with the RLT on Thursday.
- that the talking points would be the same as they have been at meetings

- that Jeremy Hoff of the Richmond Land Trust (RLT) requested that project engineers be invited and that he had responded to him that he could invite the engineers for the Reaps and the mobile station since the town has not yet engaged an engineer for this project, Jeremy wanted only the Town engineer to attend and Tyler was invited to the meeting although he has very limited information
- that the meeting will discuss the easement related to the second phase of the project

Discussion included:

- that Fran asked if there has already been discussion with the Reaps and the RLT, Bard said he had no way of knowing. Bob Reap said he could email the Commission what he has since the information was not available at this meeting, Bard thanked him.

## **2) Update on meeting with VTrans regarding potential placement of sewer pipe in Rt. 2 right of way**

Bard reported:

- that there was a meeting with VTrans regarding options, with the question being would the proposed system be a public or private line and determining the most viable and desirable route to take. He felt a public line coordinated with the VTrans work would be best
- that this was a conceptual discussion with VTrans
- that it is plausible to be done with the VTrans work
- that this will be disruptive and the additional disruption for the line would not make a great impact on traffic

Discussion included:

- that Kendall said we should talk to the mobile owner about the project. Bard responded that he has had a conversation with the owner and their current project to bore under the highway has them interested in looking hooking into the system, costs and timing being the determining factors
- that Rod West asked if the VTrans people said it would be prohibited to have the project done in 2021, Bard responded that it would be coordinated to keep traffic disruption down. Rod West said that when the gas lines were installed it created little traffic disruption so he was not certain this would be any more disruption.
- that Bard said that the current users should not shoulder the expenses of the expansion and how to pay has changed now that the mobile station is interested in the possibility and that could be the tipping point.
- that Rod West said it did not seem that the Commission would spend \$50,000 for engineering and suggested a design/build bid project. Bard replied that at different stages there is potential for funding from different sources and preliminary funding for engineering is available at 50% forgiveness. Rod West thought creativity was stifled by having to do the project a specified way
- that getting to the mobile station is easy, getting to the mobile home park is much more difficult
- that Kendall asked for clarification, that any extension should not be paid for by the current users. Bard replied, it was not previous boards position that the current users would benefit from the expansion in some way.

## **3) Potential subsidies from Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

Bard reported:

- that the preliminary engineering report provides a way to approach other sources of funding

**c. Update on West Main St. waterline project**

Kendall reported:

- that the project would go out to bid at the end of next week
- that Josh said the bid request should go out next week and be back to the commission for approval in time for an April 15<sup>th</sup> start time weather permitting

**d. Superintendent's Report**

Kendall reported:

- that there is a new wastewater permit that he wrote in comments for and that the state told him to "pound sand" saying we have what we have
- septage is consistently up
- that they are getting ready for the West Main Street project
- that the truck has been out for bid but there has been no real interest and that the truck would be a great farm truck
- that the apprentice is working out very well
- that 2020 has been a rotten year for a lot of things but for the water department it has been a good year getting things done
- that according to Connie Bona, the delinquent user's amount is under \$10,000

Discussion included:

- that Bard said there may be money for infrastructure coming up, Kendal agreed saying that we are trying to get set up for it with upgrades to the facility and shovel ready projects, Bard said being ready puts us at the head of the line, Kendall said that Richmond is in a good position for funding
- that Bard asked about percentage of septage being taken in, Kendall said users are about 40-50% of what is being taken in

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

**Minutes:**

David moved to approve the Minutes of 12/21/2020; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

**Purchase Orders:** none

**Warrants:**

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

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

follow up conversation from RLT meeting

preliminary engineering report for route 2 and finance discussion

update on the West Main St. water line project will be February

Budget, delinquent account and fund balances

**6. Adjourn**

Fran moved to adjourn; Katie seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.