

Water Commission Minutes  
2/16/2021

Called to Order: 5:30 PM

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

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Others Present by Zoom: Josh Arneson, Town Manager; Kendall Chamberlin, Water & Sewer; Kathy Daub-Stearns, Admin. Assist.; Rod West, Bob Reap, 802-999-4340  
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 contractor for West Main St. waterline project**

Josh reported:

- that 10 bids were received with J Hutchins the low bid at \$79,991. adding that Green Mountain Engineers reviewed the bids and recommended the Selectboard award J Hutchins the project.
- that there are various funding options adding that the project could be paid out of existing funds since this bid was \$20,000 less than was anticipated.

David moved to award J Hutchins the project and appointing the Town Manager, Josh Arneson, as duly authorized representative to sign the contract, Fran seconded.

Roll call vote: David, Don, Fran, and Bard voted affirmatively. Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- that Don said the project is worthwhile, but he wondered if the cash outlay would be a problem with the planned sewer extension on Route 2. Bard said that the extension would be paid for by the new customers so unless cash flow is an issue there should be no problem. Josh said he felt there was enough cash in reserve to cover this and should be completed before Route 2. Kendall said the state should be reimbursing the town nearly \$400,000 from the last project so cash flow should not be a problem. Don responded that he is ok with it and would depend on Josh and Kendall's responses.

**b. Discussion of expansion of sewer system into the Gateway District Update on progress for Preliminary Engineering Report**

Josh reported:

- that Green Mountain Engineering has been hired at a cost of \$9900

- that the 50% subsidy is in the process of being applied for
- that the cost updates for all 3 phases will be done by 2/25

Discussion included:

- that Bard said that the \$5,000 would be added to the general costs of the projects
- that Fran asked if phase one (1) was a variable, but phases two (2) and three (3) would be the same. Kendall said that was correct. Kendall said that as soon as the cost estimates are available the route that would be taken in phase one (1) should be determined. Don asked what would be involved updating the pump station from phases one (1) and two (2). Kendall said there would be many pump stations and could be looked at once the engineering report is available
- that topics may be able to be taken up at the next meeting

1) Discussion of timeline

Josh reported:

- on the timeline that was put together with Kendall, Bard and Don
- that the timeline was in the packet and available online
- that timeline would be updated and be available online in the packet for the next meeting
- that construction may begin spring of 2022 to coincide with the state's project projected start in the fall of 2022

Discussion included:

- that the timeline would need to be updated regularly
- that if there is a vote, then if a municipal line goes past your property it is necessary for you to join the system within a period of time. Fran asked who votes. Kendall responded that he was not certain if it is the renter or the property owner that would be voting. David said that it should be checked on. Bard agreed that it should be a point for clarification early in the process. Don asked if existing users would be voting, Bard said potential users. Don asked if the Reaps are going to have 10 users do they get more than 1 vote. Bard said that was a question to be answered but he thought it would be 1 vote per property. Don asked if the mobile station was 1 user. Bard said that a large volume user and a low volume user is 1 vote regardless of usage. Rod West thought the Reaps had subdivided into 5 lots. Bard said that getting legal guidance should happen sooner rather than later.
- that Rod West thought that at the last meeting there was a decision to have water and sewer be brought but tonight it sounded like we are talking about just sewer. Bard said that the big users have said they are interested in sewer, not water.
- that David asked if it would make sense to determine the cost of the water and do it at the same time regardless. Kendall said that getting financing for a water line that will not be used is probably not going to happen adding that we should be clear with everyone that this expansion will be sewer only. Bard thought that the discussion should be for what the potential users want. Kendall thought funding would make a difference. Bard thought it would be a good question to ask future users. Rod West said that he has two (2) properties, and he would be happy to have water as well as sewer.
- that Kendall said that the schedule for phase one (1) could be discussed for this season depending on phase 1. Bard said phase 1 could be done sooner with phases two (2) and three (3) done later. Kendall said that once funding is approved the project needs to be done within five (5) years.

- Don asked about a legal opinion for the questions raised. Bard asked if he was asking about the approval vote. Don said he wanted a legal opinion.
- that Josh will update the timeline and have it ready for the next meeting

## **2) Other topics related to the expansion of the sewer system**

### **c. Discussion of March Water and Sewer Commission meeting schedule**

Josh reported:

- that the 1<sup>st</sup> Mon in March a meeting on the Australian ballot informational meeting.
- that there is a question to move the Selectboard regular March meetings to the second and fourth Monday's or keep the meetings on the regular dates but at 5:30 PM to be certain to end by 7:00 PM.

Discussion included:

- that Fran would not be able to make the meetings if they were moved. David had no preference. Don was ok with either. Bard thought the dates should remain the same.
- that the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting will start at 5:30

### **d. Superintendent's Report**

Kendall reported:

- that that he thanked Ravi saying that Buttermilk changed their plans and Ravi brought it to his attention
- that he hoped to participate in an upcoming phosphorus study
- that he wondered if with all the sidewalk studies maybe there should be a PBR
- that he was looking at another vehicle that may go up for auction

Discussion included:

- issues related to the Buttermilk project as well as the fact that a private line needs to be upgraded if it is going to be used and that the private line dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

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

David moved to approve the Minutes of 02/21//2021 as amended; Fran seconded. Roll Call Vote: Fran, Katie, David, Don, and Bard voted affirmatively; Motion passed.

Discussion included:

- that Fran asked if, on the top of page 2, was the \$20,000 referenced the same amount approved for engineering, saying that her recollection that it was \$10,000 that was approved on January 19, 2021. Kathy read the motion from January 19. Fran understood how the \$20,000 dollar amount was determined but thought the Minutes should reflect the motion made. Kathy will amend the minutes from Feb 21.

### **Warrants:**

#### **Dissussion:**

Josh reported that there was a PO that needed to be updated and would be supplied at the next meeting for approval.

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

**5. Discuss Items for Next Agenda**

timeline

preliminary engineering report

annual meeting date selection

**6. Adjourn**

David moved to adjourn; Fran seconded. Roll call vote: Fran, Don, David, Katie, and Bard voted affirmatively. The meeting adjourned at 6:42PM.