

Town of Shelburne Water Commission

Meeting minutes, June 8, 2020

Present: John Schold, Chair; John Day, Steve Smith, Pete Gadue; also Water Superintendent Rick Lewis, Finance Director Peter Frankenburg, Town Manager Lee Krohn, and Brian Precourt.

The meeting was called to order via Zoom at 5:06 P.M., with attendees identified. Motion by Schold to approve the agenda; seconded by Smith and approved 3-0 (Day arrived a bit later in the meeting).

Motion by Gadue to approve the May meeting minutes with a corrected list of attendees; seconded by Schold and approved 3-0 (Day arrived a bit later in the meeting).

Public comments: none

Frankenburg presented a budget status update as of the end of May, with one month in the fiscal year to go. Overall budget is in good shape. Revenues are up (water sales among other items) and expenses overall are at or below budget (few water breaks = less repair and overtime costs). Legal costs were up this year due to the Wes Road matter, the Wake Robin water tank matter, and the Museum/Meach Cove waterline easement.

Lewis reported that meter replacements are continuing, and unaccountable water increased recently due to leaks on several larger private water lines that were sought, found, and repaired. Day arrived.

Krohn reported that management complexities continue related to COVID-19, in addition to the many other 'regular' issues and projects before us in keeping the ship of state moving forward.

Cost share request of Brian Precourt regarding the Catholic Church water line: this matter had been discussed at prior meetings, and it was agreed to wait until June to see how the fiscal year budget looked. Considerable discussion ensued as to the nature of the project, its need, differential materials and other costs, present and/or future benefit to the Town water system, and how and whether the 1988 cost sharing policy applied here (if that had ever actually been adopted). The policy criteria were reviewed. After further discussion about policy criteria, possible precedent, water system benefit, and additional costs for further possible improvements (full size hydrant on the new line; connecting across Falls Road to improve fire flows; and possible benefit if/when the RT 7 water line were ever replaced), the matter remained unresolved. Lewis offered to revisit the project's cost structure with Precourt to help further analyze matters, and it would be brought back again at the next meeting.

Frankenburg presented a second draft of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021. The proposed rate to be charged is down slightly for the second year in a row, and the department is in good shape, thanks in part to significant investment in CDs and the Superintendent's budget management. Projected revenues and expenses were reviewed. With no further questions, motion by Day to approve the budget as presented; seconded by Schold and approved 4-0.

Commissioner Concerns: none

Due to COVID-19, it was decided to distribute the warrants by email, with Commissioners to indicate individual approval by email.

Motion by Schold to adjourn at 6:04 P.M., seconded by Day and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.