

Town of Shelburne

Water Commission

5/6/19 meeting minutes

Present: Chair John Schold, Peter Gadue, Craig Wooster, John Day, Steve Smith, Peter Frankenburg, Lee Krohn; also Laurie Kotorman and father Mr. Rooney

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M.

Motion by Day to approve the agenda; seconded by Gadue and approved unanimously.

There was no public comment on items not on the agenda.

Finance Director report: status report - budget to date. Just billed 4th quarter, water sales above budget for year. Miscellaneous revenue - CD cashed, not really new revenue; to be used toward a new truck for the department. Facility maintenance contractors/equipment - good year, few water line breaks, well under budget. More dollars going to radio read meters to continue forward progress. Other items on track. Below on overtime due to few line breaks. Good budget year overall so far.

Water Superintendent report: talked with CWD re: better communication with us when a problem arises. Wake Robin tank parts on site, tank to be built this season. New public works specifications in process, the intent being clarity for all parties. Day supported this effort from a DRB member's perspective.

Town Manager's Report: Library/Town Center project continues; big picture facilities and energy conservation initiatives/analyses will begin this year, as prescribed in the Manager's Goals and Objectives set forth by the Selectboard.

Rooney mobile home park: Krohn introduced the request of landowner Rooney to be able to install individual water meters on each mobile home. Today there is one master meter for the park, much easier for the Town to read and maintain. If changed, then the Town would have to bill and seek payment from 19 separate parties. Rooney offered to install and insulate the meters, but these would still be a maintenance challenge for the Town with winter freeze ups.

Lakeview reviewed: Former owner Pecor paid to replace all service lines, new curbstops for each mobile home, insulation, new valves. The park is now a Co-op; all are billed separately. Problems remain with freeze ups, and getting paid for charges for new meters and labor when repairs are needed. Similarly, at the Shelburnewood park with 28 mobile homes, even though T. Pomerleau bought the park, replaced all water mains and service lines, and installed new fire hydrants, insulation, and radio meters, similar problems still occur with freeze ups. 75% of the Water Department's winter calls are in these mobile home parks, so problems continue, even with all new infrastructure and fire protection. Having been through this before, why would the Water Department seek to add the burden of a third mobile home park to its workload? The existing, single master meter works fine. Although it may be an advantage to the landowner to transfer billing/payment/maintenance to the Town, there is no advantage to the Town in doing so.

Motion by Schold to consider Rooney's request and accept the proposal that Rooney replace the existing master meter with individual water meters on each mobile home, including insulation and other needs to help ensure proper system functions. The motion was seconded by Day for discussion purposes, and failed on a unanimous vote (thus rejecting the request). If the landowner can truly resolve technical issues with winter freezups and other challenges, he may return later with a new proposal.

Draft budget for FY20: first draft reviewed; will be on agenda again next month. If approved, rates in effect for next FY. No rate increase required, as now all cell tower revenue flows to the Water Dept. Our net position went negative several years ago when we gave the north water tank to CWD, but matters are now back in better shape. Now more funds going into water meter replacement (radio read, more accurate) and more into the capital improvement fund for future projects.

Expenses: volume to be sold is a best guess estimate based on recent years. Estimated as the same as last year for next year.

Expense to USG (south tank maintenance) one more year at \$90K, then down to \$20K for several years after that.

No rate increase is suggested for next year given the overall budget. Discussion ensued whether even a small increase (0.5%, 1%) might be affordable and prudent to help further increase the capital fund, given the dramatic costs of future needed improvements to the system. Further inquiry and discussion will continue.

Discussion followed on future capital improvements, the Bostwick water line, and hydrant repair/replacement.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn.