

## SHELBURNE WATER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – June 28, 2022

Present: John Day, Craig Wooster, Steve Smith, Pete Gadue, Jennifer Martinez; also Chad Racine, Denis Barton, Peter Frankenburg, Lee Krohn.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. Introductions were made all around to new member Jennifer Martinez. Denis Barton also participated. Motion by Day to approve the agenda; seconded by Gadue and approved unanimously. Motion by Day to approve the minutes of March 12 (noting the date to be corrected); seconded by Gadue and approved 3-0, with new member(s) abstaining. It was noted for the record that the April 19 notes existed but were not official minutes since there was no quorum and thus no official business conducted. There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Frankenburg presented an overview of the draft budget for fiscal year 2023, which will need to be adopted at a subsequent meeting. Other than inflationary increases in operations and benefits/salaries per the union contract, the only substantial change is a good one – a roughly \$69,000 decrease in the south water tank maintenance line. That contract is ‘front loaded’ with the first several years at a much higher rate to cover costs of both repainting and ongoing maintenance; the next few years are less costly for just maintenance. One option is to lower water rates; the other is to maintain rates but put the ‘surplus’ funds into a capital reserve fund. The advantages of the latter approach are to avoid ‘ping ponging’ water rates over time, and to build reserves toward significant and costly capital needs now and in the future. It was noted that water fees from Champlain Water District increased roughly 4%, and debt is being carried from the purchase of a truck this year.

It was decided that the question of handling bulk water purchases need not be resolved now. It was also noted that we still seek a new Water Superintendent, and that the employment market remains tough.

The asset management grant was received; it will require meetings and trainings to involve both staff and others. Racine will confirm who is required to participate.

It was decided to hold the regular July meeting on Tuesday, July 5, primarily to approve the budget for the new fiscal year.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn