

TOWN OF SHELBURNE
WATER COMMISSION MEETING

09/10/19

Present: Chair John Schold, Craig Wooster, Pete Gadue, John Day, Steve Smith

Also Rick Lewis, Lee Krohn, Peter Frankenburg; and Steve Baietti

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

Motion by Schold to approve the agenda, but shifting the order of items to be considered; seconded by Day and approved unanimously.

Motion by Gadue to approve the August meeting minutes; seconded by Day and approved unanimously.

Public Comments: None.

Further discussion again about the minimum quarterly charge; Baietti again sought lowering or removal of the minimum charge. Shelburne's is actually far lower than other municipalities. Analogy offered to 'grid charge' for electricity – the grid infrastructure is still needed no matter how little or much power one draws from the grid; similarly here, water infrastructure is needed to supply water no matter how little or much water one may use. Minimum fee, whatever it is called, helps provide the substantial infrastructure needed to provide service for each user, and makes water available to each user on demand, as needed. If anything, it might be suggested that Shelburne's minimum fee should be higher based on comparables. Motion by Schold to keep the minimum charge current practice in place; seconded by Day, and approved unanimously.

Recommended rates/fees/terminology: Lewis reviewed comparable rates and fees for other area towns. Minimum quarterly water charges are higher than Shelburne in most towns/cities. Other rate/fee comparison shows we are roughly in the ballpark. Proposing fire hydrant fee from \$50 - \$60; meter test fee from \$25 - \$35 (most towns charge more); bulk water from \$6.00 - \$8.00. Motion Day to approve three changes as proposed; Gadue; unanimous.

Connection fees: proposed changes to clarify and simplify. Base fee includes a 5/8" meter; anything larger is an additional fee. Connection fees residential and commercial/industrial increased. 50% discounts as incentives that were somehow adopted previously should be eliminated; as an enterprise fund, this is not the right place for these. If the Town seeks to incentivize certain developments, then the Town itself should do so via other means... Lewis recommended adopting updated fees per the 9/9/19 proposal. Allocations are checked against the State WW permits issued. Spear Street service are to be tracked separately regarding the agreement with South Burlington. Intent to update and simplify fee calculations for all applicants and departments. Motion by Day to approve as proposed; seconded by Schold and approved unanimously, including elimination of the 50% discount/incentives.

Finance report: first quarter reported. Systems generally in good shape, no unexpected expenses, revenue roughly on track.

Lewis: Boston firm KAS will meet regarding cleaning out Falls Road and other water lines. SUEZ, the south tank maintenance firm, wants to drain the tank and inspect soon. Need updates from legal counsel on water line research (Fisher Place and Museum land).

Krohn reported that the Library/Town Center grand opening is on Saturday, 9/14.

There were no Commissioner concerns noted. Gadue noted an upcoming CWD bond for repair/update of infrastructure, will be a separate ballot item in each municipality at Town Meetings. Water rate likely to stay at 3% increase as per prior years.

Accounts Payable were reviewed and signed.

With no further business, motion by Day to adjourn; seconded by Schold and approved unanimously at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn