

SHELBURNE WATER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – January 3, 2023

Present: John Day, Jennifer Martinez, Pete Gadue, also Bart Sherman, Peter Frankenburg, Lee Krohn,

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. Motion by Day to approve the consent agenda, including the meeting agenda and November meeting minutes; seconded by Martinez and approved 3-0. There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Water Superintendent Bart Sherman updates: letters have been sent to property owners affected by the “Stage 1” water meter replacement project, slated to begin on February 1. The draft bond request language was reviewed, looking toward a recommendation to the Selectboard for a bond or financing item on the March ballot. The wording was clarified regarding ‘second and final stage’ of the project. Discussion followed regarding possible cost sharing with the Wastewater department, since their revenue derives from the water meter readings; although most users who will be paying via water/sewer rates are likely on both systems. Motion by Day to endorse to the Selectboard the proposed bond/financing language as amended and ask that it be placed on the March ballot; seconded by Gadue and approved 3-0. It was also noted that Sherman had acquired portable traffic safety lights to be used when crews are working on or adjacent to roadways; these can provide worker safety and take the place of flaggers otherwise needed but never available. Sherman has also been working to retain current staff and onboard new staff (again).

T Mobile update: Sherman has facilitated direct communication between T Mobile and the south tank maintenance firm; they are “exchanging views on welding”; discussion remains in process.

Town Manager report was brief and concise.

Finance Director report: budget status was distributed; generally on track as anticipated. Purchases from CWD and sales/revenue are on track. Few breaks so far. Bills came due for the Wake Robin pump station. Delinquencies remain higher than normal; we did receive some payments via the State assistance program; hope to reinstitute shutoff notices for longstanding or significant delinquencies as moratoria expire. How to make it easier to pay? We have long offered ‘direct deposit’ from ratepayers, and now offer a credit card option as well. We still see many “walk ins”, those who prefer to pay in person.

Commissioner Concerns: none were raised.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn