

SHELBURNE WATER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – February 7, 2023

Present: John Day, Craig Wooster, Jennifer Martinez, Steve Smith, Pete Gadue; also Bart Sherman and 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 January meeting minutes (to be updated with references to the newly acquired traffic safety lights and onboarding of new staff); seconded by Gadue and approved unanimously. There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Water Superintendent Bart Sherman updates: considerable information was offered and discussion ensued regarding the T Mobile proposal to add cell panels on the south water tank. It was agreed to allow continued discussion between T Mobile and our tank maintenance company in order to determine if an approach can be found that protects the Town's interests. This will include pre- and post-construction inspections, among many other construction detail matters. It was also agreed that since Sprint is vacating the site and T Mobile is effectively adding back three additional panels that will replace the Sprint panels, that the rent increase from T Mobile should at least equal what Sprint was paying so there is no loss of revenue from what is the same amount of tank "real estate" being used and covered. It is also essential that no interference with Dispatch communications can be allowed.

Considerable discussion then ensued over Sherman's request for \$100K+- of additional funds to hire MSK to assist in performing and documenting the lead/copper service line inspections required by state/federal mandates, and which must be documented in an approved manner for everyone's benefit. Sherman suggested that \$20K for now would be important and useful to allow MSK to begin this work, and build the portal creating the database structure for entering and managing these data. Krohn stated the importance of this not being a proprietary data system, and that any contract must ensure Town ownership of the data in an open structure and format usable by the Town beyond MSK's involvement. After further discussion, motion by Day to authorize allocation of up to \$20K to get this project started, on the presumptive basis that these funds are available to be reallocated from within the existing approved budget, for MSK to create the platform and begin populating it with initial data gathered by New England Backflow as a part of the meter replacement/service line inspection project; seconded by Wooster and approved unanimously.

Further questions about the T Mobile project: pros and cons to allowing their installation; risks to water quality; whether all cell infrastructure could be removed from the tank so it could be turned over to CWD (but who would then, and where, provide cell service to Shelburne?). Sherman assured that any cell project on the tank will be reviewed by our maintenance company, and only projects meeting their standards on our behalf (along with any financial arrangements to be considered by the Water Commission and potentially the Selectboard) can be approved.

Since the actual discussion with T Mobile awaits next month's meeting, discussion of the lease itself was similarly tabled. Gadue thanked Sherman for the 'water loss' report. It was noted that roughly 9% 'loss' (gallons delivered and charged by CWD compared with gallons metered and billed) was found recently. It was stated that anything less than 10% is considered quite good. It was also noted that "loss" includes

everything from old meters not providing accurate readings, to hydrant flushing, to firefighting... so it's not all truly "lost" to the system, but includes these other aspects of water use.

Town Manager report was brief and concise.

The Finance Director was unable to attend, so there was no financial update this month.

Commissioner Concerns: none were raised.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn