

SHELBURNE WATER COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2023

Present: John Day, Craig Wooster, Jennifer Martinez, Steve Smith, Pete Gadue; also Bart Sherman, Peter Frankenburg, Lee Krohn, Patrick Smart

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. Motion by Day to approve the consent agenda, including the meeting agenda and February meeting minutes; seconded by Smith and approved 4-0. There were no public comments on items not on the agenda. Gadue arrived at this time.

Water Superintendent's report: Patrick Smart of MSK Engineering was introduced; he is working on the service line inventory, records management, etc. Sherman noted that the State has awarded a \$499,000, five year deferred payback loan, which has the potential of being forgivable in part or whole. Sherman hopes for a positive vote today on the water meter replacement bond article. He noted that stage 1 of the meter replacement project is underway, and hopes it will be completed by the end of May. If the bond vote passes, he hopes that stage 2 can be completed in a year's tie. Regarding the State loan, it was agreed to ride out the five-year deferral in hopes of forgiveness being granted, as any early payments made on the loan would not likely be recoverable.

Sprint removal of cell infrastructure from the south tank: this appears all in order. Sprint is using our own tank maintenance contractor to do this work, so we can be confident it will be done properly and with no damage to the tank. Sprint will pay all costs, including the work itself and pre- and post-inspections; all will be done to our specifications. They will also remove the old Nextel shed and other fenced-in equipment behind the tank; the concrete pad will remain if in good shape for potential future reuse. Motion by Day to endorse this plan per the Water Superintendent's memorandum on the subject; seconded by Smith, and approved 4-1, Gadue opposed.

T Mobile proposal to add cell infrastructure on the south tank: still in process between T Mobile and our tank maintenance company. Even with agreement, we would still need to negotiate lease terms.

Town Manager's report: it was clarified that he will be departing by early May, but will continue to do his best to support the Commission and all other aspects of town management while he is still here.

Finance Director's update: the department budget remains generally in good shape. Sales are on track; need for contractors has been limited to date due to good luck with few water line breaks. Delinquencies remain higher than normal; use of shutoff notices in the spring was strongly encouraged. More specific delinquency data was requested. Prep work on the new year's budget will begin soon.

Commissioner Concerns: questions were raised about the Sprint lease, and how or why their lease payments could have ceased some years ago while their infrastructure was still in place (and which should have been removed back then). Although we may not be able to determine how that occurred, we will institute a stronger tracking system to avoid the problem in the future.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:36 P.M.  
Next meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn