

SHELBURNE WATER COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – November 1, 2022

Present: John Day, Jennifer Martinez, Steve Smith, Pete Gadue, Craig Wooster; also Bart Sherman, Peter Frankenburg, Lee Krohn, Gerry Squires, Nicole Tempesta, Brian Sullivan.

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

Water Superintendent Bart Sherman offered more information on the hopeful water meter replacement project. Phase 1 would replace all existing Sensus radio read meters (no longer supported by the company) with new Neptune meters. Estimated cost is \$152,500, which can be paid with cash in hand as several CDs mature. With approximately \$500,000 total in Water Commission CDs, there will still be sufficient financial reserves in hand. Cost to upgrade all approx. 2200 meters is estimated at \$1,151,000, for which a bond vote will be needed. Once complete, it is said to simplify all aspects of quarterly meter reading, ensure more accurate readings, set the Town up for possible further future system improvements, and save 1280 man hours/year compared with the current manual system. A bond anticipation note may be needed to cover costs up front. Since water meter readings are also the foundation for wastewater billing, a request will be made of that department to help share the cost of this overall project.

It was also noted again that with newer state/federal mandates to inspect all service lines to determine if copper or lead, this work can be done simultaneously with the meter replacements at no additional cost – and which might otherwise cost \$400,000 on its own if done separately. A third party will be engaged to do all of this work in combined fashion.

Motion by Day to authorize pursuit of Phase 1 of the meter replacement project as presented, and to endorse Phase 2 to the Selectboard to seek sufficient funding to proceed; seconded by Wooster and approved unanimously.

Sherman reported that new employee Andrew Driver is working out well; the Wake Robin reserve tank generator has been installed and will be online shortly; and the asset management project is underway.

T Mobile presented information regarding their hopeful plan to replace three existing cell panels on the south water tank and increase the number of panels to six; it would also involve removal/replacement of coaxial and fiber cables and lines, and additional stud-welded panel mounts on the tank.

Staff/Commission are concerned about these proposed new mounts, as we can't allow anything that would risk tank integrity or increase maintenance costs. Questions were asked whether existing cell panel mounts can be reused, between existing T Mobile locations and Sprint panel locations to be decommissioned; T Mobile suggested these existing locations did not provide sufficient directional coverage.

T Mobile suggests there is no risk of further interference with Dispatch communications resulting from these additional proposed cell panels.

It was suggested that T Mobile should communicate directly with the Town's water tank maintenance firm and with the Town's communications provider, all to determine whether the proposed plan is acceptable or poses untenable risks. This was agreed to, with a return visit to the Commission to follow if/when matters are resolved. Also to be reviewed is any proposed increase in rent if the additional cell panels are approved for installation, especially with Sprint's termination of the lease.

Frankenburg reviewed the Water Department budget; although early in the year, matters to date are doing OK, other than continued greater payment delinquencies.

It was suggested that periodic updates on 'water loss' would be helpful – ie, water for which we are billed from CWD but not recovered via metered usage. Some 'loss' is due to hydrant flushing and structure fires, but these may not account for all 'loss'.

Town Manager's report: dealing with multiple, complex matters at this time, not least of which is "budget season" upon us as we look toward the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Concerns: various questions and matters were reviewed.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Lee Krohn