

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Warner Village Water District Commissioners
At 9:00 A.M. on
January 8, 2018 at the Treatment Plant

Present: Peter Newman, Peter Savlen and Dan Lavoie, Commissioners; Chuck Come, Superintendent; Chris Perkins, Treasurer; Ray Martin, Administrative Assistant; and Jim McLaughlin, Clerk. Also Jim Bingham, Warner Town Manager, and Jon Warzocha, Horizons Engineering.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Commissioners' regular meeting held on December 11, 2017 were approved as submitted.

Town Hall Water Supply

Jim Bingham updated the Commissioners on the status of safety improvements in the Town Hall as mandated by the State Fire Marshal. The major project called for in the State's report is the installation of fire suppression/sprinkler equipment. This requires a new large diameter water main to be piped into the Hall. Two alternative routes are being considered, one from Main Street coming in along the east side of the building and the other from Kearsarge Mountain Road, across the Masonic Hall front lawn and along the road behind Schoodac's to the Hall. This second route has the advantage of being under that road the Town has plans to dig up and lower in the near future. This alignment also will allow the Odd Fellows building to receive service necessary to accommodate a sprinkler system. Ray mentioned a third route – from Kearsarge Mountain Road under the road behind the Masons building and then down to the Town Hall. This would make service to Simonds School with a larger pipe more easily accomplished.

Discussion on the relative merits of the alternative routes ensued. Jim asked the Commissioners to consider paying for the engineering for this project, likely to be in the \$20,000 ballpark. The Commissioners expressed interest in cooperating but asked to be kept in close contact regarding the selection of an engineering firm. They will take up Jim's request when the actual engineering cost has been determined.

With regard to transfer of hydrant ownership from the Town to the District, Jim said such a move would not happen this year and that the Budget Committee is skeptical that the transfer of \$16,800 from the Town's budget wasn't adequately offset by a comparable saving. The Commissioners stressed that the Town needs to get serious about their promised replacement of two hydrants a year under the existing agreement with the District.

Horizon Engineering

Jon Warzocha gave the Commissioners a summary of available external funding sources that could be used to offset the District's expenses in a number of areas.

MTBE grants: the State has been given \$200 million, of which \$150 million may become available to allocate to community water projects. Still in the process of being defined; guidance later this year.

State Revolving Fund (SRF): looks like a good source of funding - \$20,000 grants, coupled with loans.

Rural Development: emphasis is now on large projects (over \$1 million), with 45% grant, 55 % loan.

CDBG: future of this program is in doubt.

DES Asset Management grants: \$20,000 for water projects and \$30,000 for sewer. These grants can be used to do the planning for system improvements.

Jon recommended that the District prepare an application for SRF financial assistance. This two-

page application will serve the District well in getting it on DES' priority list so that when funds become available, the needs of the District are on the State's radar.

With regard to the underground injection of wastewater effluent, Jon reviewed his investigation of the parcel of land being considered. It seems to be an excellent candidate. The next step will be to drill test wells on the property and conduct a detailed surficial materials characterization. Jon recommended that the District get the purchase and sales agreement signed and have it extend out through the end of 2018. Further discussion on the nature of the final project followed. Jon said that nitrate leakage was a concern with the site since it is close to the Warner River. Ponds versus direct ground injection are the two possible ways to approach this project. The Commissioners are in favor of the injection method, due to the proximity of the planned trail through the parcel. The next step, well drilling and testing, will cost \$30 to \$50,000. The timing of this would be September. SRF funding , with a 20% loan forgiveness, could assist in paying for this component, as well as for the purchase of the land. Jon also suggested talking to RD by the end of March about establishing eligibility for their funding the whole project. He said the District would be advised not to purchase the property until the site has proven suitable and the State has given its approval.

Finally, Jon recommended the District sit down with DES (Tracey Wood) as soon as possible to discuss this project and potential funding. On the subject of engineer selection, Jon mentioned that his firm has carried out a number of similar projects in New Hampshire and is well known to DES.

Administrator's Report

Ray distributed the November and December revenue and expense reports. He noted that at year's end, water and sewer rents failed to meet budget estimates by about \$26,000. Also there is about \$8,000 in outstanding rents not yet received. Despite the increase in rates approved by the Annual Meeting, the District's revenues continue to fall below the level needed to sustain operations, without placing more of a burden of the property tax.

Ray pointed out that expenses for the year have been kept below budget figures, largely in view of the revenue situation. He said that Chuck has been able to do much of the work formerly carried out by outside contractors. Most likely the precinct tax will have to increase in the coming year to address the shortfall in water and sewer rate income.

The Commissioners were in general agreement with the revised budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

The next Commissioners meeting: January 22, 2018 at 9 A.M.

Recorded by Jim McLaughlin, Clerk