

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
5 JULY 2023

PRESENT: David Shaughnessy, Arla Sampsell, Steve Goodrich, Joe Herrmann, Ted Fela, Mary Rogers and April Paulin

The Executive Session that was paused on 7 June was continued at 5 pm. tonight.

Steve moved to exit the Executive Session and adjourn at 5:54 pm. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

David called the regular monthly meeting to order at 5:57 pm.

MINUTES

Joe moved to approve the minutes of 7 June as presented. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board would like a letter from the State saying it is ok to roll the additional propane tank into the cost of the installation of the generator.

The Board asked about the permit from the State for the water spigot at Welling Field as Jimmy should be listed as the plumber. Mary answered that all the permits are being taken care of.

WARRANTS

Joe moved to approve the payroll warrant for 8 June – 5 July for a net amount of \$9,445.54. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve moved to approve the monthly warrant for 8 June – 5 July for \$18,323.54, check #'s 10410-10427 and 2 debits. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This is Mary's last meeting as the Treasurer. She will still try to attend as many meetings as her schedule allows to keep the lines of communication open between the two boards. She has not discussed compensation with Doug and that is something the Board should set. She will get the proper paperwork signed the end of this week.

Mary received a call from Andrea from Rural Development questioning whether or not a \$65,000 loan from the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund in 2018 had been paid off. We only took \$47,000 of the \$65,000 but that amount was supposed to have been rolled over into a loan that we accepted from Rural Development and Rural Development was to have paid off that loan. Mary has a conference call with Craig scheduled to figure it all out.

Ted got the last of the information to Steve Love and Steve has begun working on the audit. Mary told the Board that she had heard that Steve Love will be retiring next year and Love, Cody, & Co. will no longer be doing audits. She has not confirmed this with Steve Love. The Board will most likely need to find another CPA for their 2023 audit.

Next week Mary and Doug will start transferring accounts for Doug to manage. Doug, Vicki and Ted will start a small account for the debit card in the case the card is compromised it will not affect the main account. Doug is very familiar with this and recommends it.

Once Doug gets going he will work on getting CD's, with the best options, set up for the different accounts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The flushing of the hydrants has been completed and the reservoir will be drained and cleaned soon.

The new master meter, for Shaftsbury, has been installed and a final reading was taken. The install took about 4 hours and Shaftsbury's Superintendent, Josh Brace, was present to help. The latest monthly reading was higher than normal, and that reading has been given to Josh as normal. The old meter will be picked up tomorrow by Neptune for testing and a letter will be issued stating the accuracy.

Otter Creek is scheduled to be down tomorrow to do more GPS work.

Craig sent down some examples of level of service goals to Ted. Not sure when those goals need to be done but David was going to draft something and send to the Board to review.

Ted forwarded the electrical usage to Craig for the generator and Craig will take care of the specs and asking for bids. The Board will get a chance to look the specs over before they are sent for bids.

Ted has received an allocation request from MSK Engineering on behalf of HRH Management for an additional 2,160 gpd for 6 more units. Their current allocation is 37,710 gpd and Ted said they use way less than what they are allocated.

Steve moved to approve HRH Management's request for an additional 2,160 gpd for 6 more units. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The backflow preventer issue with HRH Management has been taken care of and there are just 2 accounts that have not taken care of theirs. Most are taken care of on a regular basis.

There are 2 galvanized service lines on Hall Street and 1 on Fredrick Street. Fletcher Loomis gave a quote of \$6400 for the 3 lines. There was money left over from the original quote from Weaver Excavating that could be used to take care of these 3 lines. The Board would like to wait to do this and maybe add to the budget.

There are 40 past due accounts and two of those accounts have applied for assistance. There was discussion of working on 10-month budgets for those customers that have some difficulty paying their bill.

Steve has a box blade to grade the drive that Ted will try and if it works well then they can purchase one to do the work themselves rather than paying someone to do it.

The Shaftsbury town crew used to mow around the reservoirs but with the issues going on between the two towns Ted has not asked them to do it. He will look into pricing for a boom sickle so they can do it themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

In the executive session Steve suggested to discuss with Attorney Frank Kochman about statutory deadlines so that both Shaftsbury and North Bennington boards can sit down to discuss the recent request from Shaftsbury regarding the billing issues. Ted and Steve have been working on this issue.

David moved to have Steve contact the attorney regarding the dispute with Shaftsbury regarding the billing. Joe seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board needs to meet with the engineer of the solar farm and David is going to try for next week. Craig will also need to attend the meeting.

David has provided the requested information from the VLCT regarding the ongoing issue with Galen from N. Bennington Variety.

At 6:59 pm Steve moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Treasurer's fee. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Arla moved to exit the Executive Session at 7:04. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

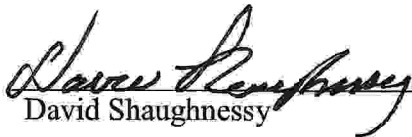
Steve moved to continue the budgeted Treasurer's pay for Doug the new Treasurer. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve moved to adjourn this meeting at 7:05 pm. Arla seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

April A. Paulin
Board Secretary

Approved:


David Shaughnessy

_____ Date

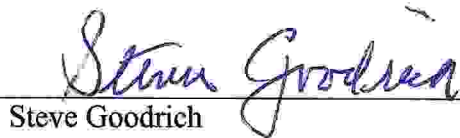
_____ Date


Joseph Herrmann

_____ Date


Arla Sampsell

_____ Date


Steve Goodrich

_____ Date