

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
11 OCTOBER 2023

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

David called this meeting to order at 6:26 pm. This is a continuation of the last meeting which was paused on 4 October 2023 at 8:17 pm.

Mary was present to explain the situation of a planning loan from 2018.

In May of 2018 we were approved for a \$65,000 planning loan from the State. On 7 August 2018 Mary submitted \$48,898.71 of invoices. On 31 August 2018 \$46,773.79 was deposited into our account with approval from Bob Fitch of the loan program. \$5,000 was forgiven.

After this money was received, we received the \$2.195 million loan and the \$65,000 loan was rolled into that loan.

16 November 2018 Mary started submitting project cost summaries which included some invoices, accidentally, that had already been submitted. These project cost summaries are sent to a different person in a different department and Andrea probably should have noticed that we had already been paid for some of those invoices. All of the project cost summary of \$162,846 was paid from the \$2.1 million loan.

In March of 2023 we had expected to start seeing bills to pay back the \$65,000 loan but we did not see any. Mary had tried contacting Andrea in December about the \$24,624.30 that Mary felt should be left over and that's when it was discovered there is a problem.

\$41,773.79 needs to be paid back immediately and the left over money from the grant can't be used to pay it off. The bottom line is that the invoices were submitted before the \$2.1 loan was approved and then they were double paid and it just slipped through everybody. After we have paid back the money Mary will contact Andrea to close out the account.

Project cost summary #22 was submitted on 24 March 2021 and Mary is not sure if its been paid. She will work on that ASAP.

Ted figured it would be about \$24,816 for 5 hydrants and 3 flushing hydrants so he will get those quotes to Mary to get the remaining money from the \$500,000 grant.

Mary praised Craig Jewett for all his help in contacting the State about all of this.

The Board discussed the Galen Rhodes claim. Galen had claimed he talked with 17 contractors about the water in the basement but really only one of them would have been qualified to search for a leak. There were also two sump pumps in the basement one of which was in an inadequate container. There were also invoices that don't make sense.

Aaron Perez from the State had been down 3x to look for a leak and could not find one. The water in the basement had also been tested for chlorine and there wasn't any present. Steve and Ted will do the research on the claims and get the information to David.

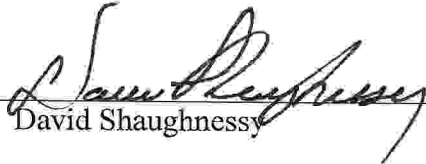
There will be a meeting next week with our attorney and he will have a drafted letter for the Board to look over before it is forwarded to the Solar Project Attorney. The Board discussed a few things they want to be sure is included such as ductile iron and not PVC, the width of the right of way and who maintains that. Steve will work on the list and get it to the Attorney.

Joe moved to adjourn this meeting at 7:34 pm. Steve seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

April A. Paulin
Board Secretary

Approved:



David Shaughnessy

Date



Steve Goodrich

Date



Joseph Herrmann

Date

Arla Sampsell

Date

Edward Myers

Date