

NORTH BENNINGTON WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
6 December 2023

PRESENT: Steve Goodrich, Arla Sampsell, David Shaughnessy, Joe Herrmann, Ed Myers, Ted Fela, Doug Buggee and April Paulin

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

MINUTES

Joe moved to approve the minutes of 1 November 2023 as presented. Ed seconded the motion. Arla abstained. Motion passed.

WARRANTS

Joe moved to approve the payroll warrant from 2 November – 6 December 2023 for \$14,197.59. Ed seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed moved to approve the monthly warrant for 2 November – 5 December 2023 for \$62,091.67, check #'s 10505-10521 and 5 debits. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The sweep accounts have been closed and moved to the new money market accounts which earn a much higher rate. The money market accounts earned just over \$400 in interest in the last 2 months. The two reserve accounts also earn a higher rate. The sinking fund accounts will also be switched over.

The new operating checking account has been set up and Doug will keep an eye on it. He feels 50 thousand is a good amount and will transfer from the money market account as needed.

The bank accounts need a second signer in case of emergency or if Doug is out of town. Steve said that the Board Treasurer in the future will be the second signer and will work with Doug so they know what is going on and how things work in case something happens there is someone else that knows how things are done.

Doug spoke with an auditor on Hoosick Street in Troy and that person felt there was someone else in Latham who would be a better fit. Doug is hoping to talk with this firm on Monday or Tuesday. The cost seems to be in the middle of what Love Cody was charging and what the firm in Burlington charges. For the purpose of the budget Doug felt \$10,000 was reasonable.

The audit is done and Ted just needs to pick it up from Love Cody. Doug requested a digital copy of it so that he can give a copy of the last two years to the potential new CPA.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ted emailed the following report ahead of the meeting:

- **Generator Project-** Waiting on approval from Cindy Parks at the State.
- **PFAS (Overlea Rd. & Harvest Hills)-** Currently in the State's hands. Craig is awaiting the underwriting. Timeline, a few months.
- **AMP-** Steve and I attended AMP Workshop on 11/7/23. Concentrated on life cycle costing and long term funding of assets.
- **Adjusting Filter Dosage-** Water temperatures has dropped to the point where we are no longer using Alum and will be adding the PASS-10 polymer in conjunction with the Sta-Floc 334 polymer as a filter coagulant/flocculant.
- **Meter Replacements-** We will be looking to replace many of the larger commercial water meters on our system. Most of these are 40+ years old. With the elimination of the laundromat at 2 Bank Street, the current 2" meter can be replaced by a smaller and less expensive meter.
- **Hall Street Project-** Met with Eamon Mulligan from MSK Engineering on location of the water main and services. The main and services were marked out so they could be surveyed and added into the plans. There is no timeline at this point. Aaron Perez, VRWA, will attempt to locate the Cold Spring line where it crosses Hall Street.
- **Located and marked out,** source transmission main from Rod & Gun Club Road across field for Green Mountain Power and John Cerretta.
- **Thibodeau Builders-** replaced the roof on the well building on 11/15/23.
- **5 Mechanic Street-** Their sump pump has been running lately. 11/28/23 the Highway Dept. needed to salt Mechanic Street due to ice buildup from the pump discharge. Curbstops on services in the immediate vicinity have been checked. No indication of a leak was detected at this time. 12/5/23 Ted gained access to the Bennington College house next door, as this building has an active sump pump as well. Ted could hear water running on the service where it enters the basement. No water was being used at the time. The service on the owner's side is galvanized. The water to the building will be turned off, at the curbstops, on 12/6/23 to determine if there is a leak and its location.
- **Sanitary Survey-** 12/14/23 with Matthew Hunt, DWGPD.
- **Town of Shaftsbury-** Water bill delivered 12/5/23.

Ted did mention that Craig had sent an email to Cindy Parks from the State stating that it had been 107 days since they filed the application and that seemed to help move things along.

The Board did not have any questions regarding Ted's report. In the future his reports will be emailed ahead of the meetings as this one was to give the Board a chance to look it over and make any notes of things they may want to discuss.

OLD BUSINESS

David, Ted and Steve will attend a mediation tomorrow for the Galen Rhodes lawsuit claim.

NEW BUSINESS

Ted had sent an email to the Board earlier regarding a leak on Prospect Street. After investigating it was determined that the leak was in property owner's galvanized service line and will be repaired tomorrow.

Ted was on top of the situation as soon as it was brought to his attention, but other emails were sent to Mary and other people got involved and the situation escalated, and it did not need to. Steve is going to try to meet with Mary to discuss the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board had met twice to discuss the budget and have agreed upon a preliminary amount of \$542,377.12 for the 2024 budget. The numbers will be tallied again and a final number will be voted on at the next meeting.

The water rate will need to be increased \$1.00/1000 gallons to meet the budget. Vicki should have the final numbers from the current budget for the January meeting or soon thereafter so we should have a good idea of where everything stands.

The Board discussed that they would like Vicki to attend at least one meeting every quarter so that they can discuss anything with her.

Steve discussed with the Board about spreading out the job and responsibilities with all the Board members to help alleviate so much work and stress on just one or two members. There have been a lot of issues coming before the Board as of late and it is all requiring a lot of extra time, research and meetings and is tough to balance that, work and family. Steve would like to make five positions – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Clerk and Purchasing Agent and would like each Board member to pick two they could do and if there is one they absolutely would not like to do to let him know. David informed the Board that he had talked with Steve about possibly resigning his position as between work and personal he has a lot going on and felt that he would not be a contributing Board member, which is important to him. With Steve's proposal David will hold off making his decision with the hopes that he can still be a contributor to the Board and still handle the extra work and personal responsibilities he has right now.

Ted needs to ask the State rep about the allocation for the Town of Shaftsbury and see if that affects anything on either our side or theirs.

Ted also needs to check with Mary to find out if she has received the USDA's approval to use the remaining money for hydrants as he requested.

Joe and Steve will begin working on the rules and regulations after the holidays.

Beginning next month the monthly meeting time will return to 7 pm. January's meeting will begin at 7 pm with an Executive Session to discuss the budget.

Ed moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm. Joe seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

April A. Paulin
Board Secretary

Approved:

Steve Goodrich Steve Goodrich Date

Joseph Herrmann Joseph Herrmann 1-3-24 Date

David Shaughnessy _____ Date

Arla Sampsell Arla Sampsell _____ Date

Edward W Myers 1/03/24 Date