

Waterbury Water-Sewer Commissioners
April 17, 2017
3:30 p.m.

(Meeting Convened at Waterbury Commons, Perry Hill, Waterbury, VT)

Present: P.H. Flanders, C. Parks, R. Finucane, Commissioners; W. Woodruff, PWD; A. Tuscany, Mun. Engineer, and Peter Krolczyk, Wastewater Superintendent.

Flanders called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The Commissioners and staff toured and inspected water and sewer infrastructure at Waterbury Commons with the specific intent to assess the quality of construction of the sewer mains and to determine what improvements might be needed before consideration would be given to accepting the sewer system for maintenance, if not ownership purposes. Superintendent Krolczyk pulled manhole covers for observation following the Waterbury Commons sewer line down to the connection with Clover Lane sewer. Waterbury staff explained to the Commissioners what previous reconstruction and testing had been completed.

The meeting recessed at 4:15 at the site and reconvened at the Steele Community Room in the Municipal Center at 4:30.

The meeting reconvened in the Municipal Center. Those listed as present with the exception of Superintendent Krolczyk continued their presence at the meeting. W. Shepeluk, municipal manager, joined them and members of the public: David DiDomenico and Heidi Dugan. Two other homeowners from Waterbury Commons were present.

The Commissioners stated their willingness to perform some testing of the still private sewage collection system in place at the Waterbury Commons site. Paul Arnot, the developer, still owns that infrastructure. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed that the sewer department will pay for mandrel testing on the sections of the sewer system that were built as part of Phase I of the Waterbury Commons project, which have not yet passed this test. A. Tuscany suggested it might be accomplished in a month or so. He stated that he may run the test by pulling the mandrel "up the main" in places where pipe deflection prevents getting the mandrel in at the upper manhole of the segment.

The Commissioners considered the draft charter that Paul Giuliani has prepared for consideration. P.H. Flanders explained the thinking of the Trustees as pertains to the charter to the two other commissioners. R. Finucane expressed concern the draft states that all employees of the Village would be terminated and wondered if that would be bad for morale. Flanders and Parks agreed and Flanders said he would inform the lawyer of the change that was now desired. Questions were also raised about the wisdom of having all terms of all Village Trustees and Water-Sewer Commissioners coming to an end as of the first annual meeting of the district. By consensus, the Commissioners agreed to ask if it was possible for the three water Commissioners to serve out their current terms and also be joined by the two Trustees who each would have a one-year term as a Water-Sewer Commissioner.

P. H. Flanders asked about production from the Sweet Field Solar Array during 2016 and whether a true up had yet occurred. Shepeluk explained that the Village got less power than expected from the array and the school and the Town got more. The Village refund will be a bit more than \$20,000. He explained he was working with the firm NetZero to try to get a better understanding of the contract and a better idea where the electricity is going. If possible, it might be a good idea to amend the contract between the four entities to more efficiently allocate electricity to the various metered accounts. The Commissioners also asked about the status of tree planting along Sweet Road to provide screening of the glare off the panels. The Commissioners directed staff to touch base with Mike Milne and begin a planting as soon as practicable, working with the Milne's, if necessary.

There was a brief discussion concerning the propriety of board members attempting to direct staff members subordinate to the Municipal Manager. Flanders stated this should practice should be avoided and wondered whether the W-S Commissioners should adopt a conflict of interest policy similar to the ones adopted by the Town Select Board and the Village Trustees. After some discussion, the Board asked Shepeluk to prepare such a policy and to bring it to a future Commissioners' meeting.

W. Shepeluk explained to the Board that he had recommendations for pay increases for Water-Sewer employees that were somewhat higher than the average percentage increase given to most other employees. He stated that market factors as they pertain to wages for employees with technical skills and licenses were behind his recommendation. The Water-Sewer employees had worked hard and the manager hoped the increase would help retain the current employees in the employ of the Village. R. Finucane made a motion to accept the manager's recommendation. C. Parks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board reviewed and discussed the managers report for the month of March. The Commissioners expressed appreciation for the report and for the work undertaken by Shepeluk.

The staff failed to bring the minutes of the last meeting to the meeting held this date. The Commissioners decided to wait until the next water-sewer commissioners meeting to make a decision on the minutes of the meeting held 3/13/17.

Flanders suggested the Commissioners meet with Paul Giuliani, along with the Trustees to discuss the proposed charter amendments. He had no specific date in mind, but would call attorney Giuliani to set up a meeting time. The Commissioners agreed to set the date for their next meeting after Flanders spoke to Giuliani.

C. Parks made a motion to adjourn at 6:10. Finucane seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Respectfully submitted,

William Shepeluk, Municipal Manager

Approved on:

