

Edward Farrar Utility District
February 9, 2022
Minutes
Hybrid meeting held in person and by Zoom

Present in the Steele Community Room: Commissions: P. Flanders, L. Sayah, C. Parks; Staff, W. Shepeluk, B. Woodruff, K. Petrovic; Public, M. Bard

Present by Zoom: Commissioner R. Finucane; Public, G. Andersen, R. Lieblappen, T. Martin

Chairperson Flanders called the meeting to order at 4:30

Approve Agenda: P. Flanders placed an item on the agenda to discuss the Municipal Manager search. This will be discussed first on the agenda. **L Sayah made a motion to approve the amended agenda, C. Parks seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Public: No public comment

Municipal Manager Search Program: M. Bard was in attendance to speak to the Commissioners about the process the Select Board has implemented to begin the search for a new Municipal Manager. Contact has been made with VLCT for assistance, they have a proposal to assist in the search. By consensus the Commissioners agreed it would be advantageous for them to have the same Manager as the Town and with that in mind they would like to be involved in the search and cost sharing.

Discussion on expected process for future discussion of possible merger of EFUD and Town with possible Town Charter: P. Flanders proposes having a joint informational meeting after March 1st Town meeting to discuss the possibility of a merger of the two governments. Discussion followed involving previous merger attempts and the fact that most of the contentious issues no longer exist, such as police budgets and tax increases for town residents.

L. Sayah asked the Commissioners if there is any chance EFUD would be selling 51 South Main Street. He was approached by a representative of an interested buyer. By consensus the Commissioners will not entertain selling 51 South Main before more merger discussions are completed.

Green Mountain Adventure Racing Association about possible summer event of Mt. bike trails on water works property: R. Lieblappen and T. Martin both representing the Non-Profit organization known as GMARA were in attendance to answer questions the Commissioners had regarding GMARA's desire to use EFUD property for an event this coming summer. There were some concerns over parking and waste disposal facilities for participants. Parking should not be a problem because participants will arrive by bike and there is a porta-potty at the Hunger Mountain trailhead, organizers have no problem communicating to participants to use that and not the woods. The Commissioners would like B. Woodruff to contact the towns of Hinesburg

and Middlesex where organizers stated they've held other events to ask what the impacts were. A final decision on the event has been tabled until B. Woodruff has an opportunity to reach out to those communities.

Update on Ice Center response to NOAV: W. Shepeluk reviewed the response letter from the Ice Center with the Commissioners. At this time the leak in the cooling tower seems to be under control. The new tower is on site with the intention of being installed this coming spring as promised. The remaining issue is the Center's request to have the penalty waived. By consensus the Commissioners agreed to wait until the replacement of the cooling tower has been completed before making a decision on the fine.

Discussion of proposal to purchase water lines from Salvas: W. Shepeluk presented a draft letter to the Commissioners for consideration. **R. Finucane moved to authorize the letter, attached to an email on 2/9/2022, be sent to Dean Salvas for his consideration. C. Parks seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Draft Water Department Budget: W. Shepeluk presented a draft of the 2022 Water Department budget. B. Woodruff gave an update of all the engineered projects the water department has ready. **C. Parks made a motion authorizing the design and potential development of upgrades to the infrastructure of the Kneeland Flats Mobile Home Park and to move forward as soon as possible subject to Town budget approval and owner agreement. L. Sayah seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

R. Finucane made a motion to approve the Water Budget as presented with an increase to \$15,000 in the hydrant line. C. Parks seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Update on high strength waste fee proposal and FOG issues in collection system: B. Woodruff and W. Shepeluk met with the owner of The Reservoir. At the time of the meeting there was a discovery that the commercial dishwasher was draining into the interceptor causing the issues there. Having seen a commercial plumbing company on site staff needs to return and perform more testing to determine whether the issue has been resolved or not. A. Tuscany is still in the process of working on BOD & FOG surcharges and will recommend whether or not they are necessary.

Discussion on base charges per Karen's report: **L. Sayah made a motion to extend all billing discounts which include a reduction of commercial and residential water base charges (\$5.00), a reduction in penalty (2.5%) and a waiver of all interest charges through the next billing cycle which ends on April 30, 2022. R. Finucane seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Department Reports: P. Flanders commented that the truck in the parking lot at 51 S Main Street is gone. Applications for the position in the Waste Water department have been arriving. P. Krolczyk and A. Tuscany are revisiting the drying bed discussion from the last meeting and perhaps finding alternative solutions.

Minutes meetings of January 12 & January 26, 2022: L. Sayah made a motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2022 and January 26, 2022 as written. C. Parks seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

Adjourn: R. Finucane made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded and was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:10p.m.

The next meeting of the Edward Farrar Utility District is scheduled for Wednesday March 9, 2022 @ 4:30pm