

Edward Farrar Utility District

Commissioners Meeting

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Steele Community Room, 28 North Main Street, Waterbury, VT

Attendance: P.H. "Skip" Flanders, Natalie Sherman, Bob Finucane, Cindy Parks, Rick Weston

Staff: Tom Leitz, Bill Woodruff, Kia Winchell Nealy

Audience: Kenneth Ryan, Anne Imhoff, Maureen McCracken, Valerie Rogers, Tom Gloor, Owen-Sette-Ducati

The monthly meeting of the Edward Farrar Utility District was called to order at 4:32pm.

AGENDA

K. Nealy made a One-Leak Rule request on behalf of Barbara Maynard.

B. Woodruff made a request to discuss an e-mail concerning dog excrement.

B. Finucane asked if could direct the Town Manager to seek legal advice concerning the Ice Center UDAG loan.

It was suggested the One-Leak Rule request and the dog excrement e-mail be discussed before the department reports. The Ice Center and UDAG loan could be discussed prior to the UVM Watershed project.

N. Sherman made the motion to approve the agenda with the modifications.

B. Finucane seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC

Valerie Rogers brought up the minutes from the June and July 2024 EFUD meetings and inquired about the hazard mitigation grant. T. Leitz reported that the State of Vermont is moving along on those funds.

Tom Gloor inquired if the Local Option Tax fund could be used by EFUD ... and suggested a conversation be had between the Waterbury Selectboard and members of the Edward Farrar Utility District.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

N. Sherman made a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings from February 12, and March 5, 2025.

B. Finucane seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

UTILITY DISTRICT STUDY COMMITTEE

S. Flanders would like a study to indicate the advantages and disadvantages of the current charter for the Edward Farrar Utility District ... and questions if a request for proposal consultant should be hired to conduct the study. Flanders suggested he and T. Leitz come up with wording for EFUD's Annual Meeting Report.

T. Leitz will reach out to Central Vermont Regional Planning and Vermont League of Cities and Towns to see if a former town manager that would understand the project and be willing to take it on.

COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR ROUTE 100 PROJECT

T. Leitz informed the EFUD board that the federal grant of 2.23 million dollars has been legally appropriated and has no time limit as to when it needs to be spent. The \$529,000 grant from the State of Vermont is a match of the federal money ... and does have a time limit on its spending.

The State money will be used for the final design and fund permits for the project.

UDAG LOAN COMMITTEE

During previous meetings, T. Leitz expressed difficulties with the current UDAG Loan Policy. (Meetings with the loan fund committee must be warned public meetings ... and it's difficult to following the open meeting law while trying to make loan recommendations in a timely fashion.) It's been determined if EFUD creates a committee, it's a public body. It is NOT a public body if staff members are appointed. EFUD could contract with Revitalizing Waterbury (the economic arm of the Town of Waterbury) to provide the loan intake and their own committee. The Town Managers could serve on the committee ... then report to the EFUD board for final approval of any loan requests.

Anne Imhoff stressed the UDAG loan is a bridge to help with other funding ... and the applicant should come to the Edward Farrar Utility District Board AFTER all other loans and monies have been secured. The applicant should also have a list of criteria and a checklist prepared before visiting the UDAG Loan Committee. A. Imhoff would like to see a statement from the EFUD board asking the applicant what the loan would be used for.

T. Leitz will report back at the next EFUD meeting with a prepared loan contract intake form for Revitalizing Waterbury.

UVM STUDENT WATERSHED PROJECT

C. Parks provided the Edward Farrar Utility District board with an extensive summary of the proposal for the UVM student watershed project. Parks pointed out that there are many incorrect facts ... and the five UVM students involved admitted they may have undertaken a project that is too much for them. They have requested more site visits and a water quality test. Parks has informed the students the State of Vermont also has standards for public water quality. The students have also suggested signage within the Water Shed area and public education about the property.

Watershed signage that was presented during the EFUD board meeting on February 12, 2025 has been approved and purchased and will be ready to install as soon as weather permits.

EFUD ANNUAL MEETING AND REPORT

The Annual Edward Farrar Utility District meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2025.

T. Leitz suggested data from the department reports should be included in the Annual Report. Also, a discussion on manhole catch pans. (\$10,000 would purchase enough catch pans to be placed under the manhole covers ... and that would help reduce inflow during future storms. Our data shows an extra seven million gallons of partially treated water flowed through the treatment plant during the last flood.)

* It should be mentioned that the Kneeland Flats Trailer Park meters are now being read electronically.

* The leak discovered near Howard Avenue/Route 100 is something that will need to be hired out.

THE WASHINGTON WEST ICE CENTER

The Minutes from September 14, 2022 EFUD meeting read; “

“There was a long discussion between the manager, the commissioners, and Ice Center board members about the UDAG loan from EFUD to the Ice Center. W. Shepeluck has recommended the deferment of the loan at 0% interest for 20 years, outlined in a memo he wrote in July. R. Finucane expressed concerns about that recommendation, stating it was not prudent public policy to do so. After a lengthy discussion, R. Finucane moved to re-state the principal due on the loan at \$529,800, to make the interest 0% per annum and to defer all payments for a period of 5-years to September of 2027. The commissioners at that time will reconsider the terms and conditions of the loan. C. Parks seconded the motion. The commissioners voted in favor of the motion 5-0. The Ice Center representatives thanked the board members for their consideration.”

After much discussion, the commissioners concluded that no further action on this matter is necessary.

UNION UPDATE

The last text exchange between the Town Manager and the union leader indicates we are a few weeks away from final positions. T. Leitz hopes to have more information and recommendations for bargaining positions at next month's EFUD meeting.

ONE LEAK RULE

B. Finucane made the motion to approve the one leak rule request by Barbara Maynard.

N. Sherman seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

DOG EXCREMENT E-MAIL

B. Woodruff received an e-mail expressing concerns about dog excrement throughout the Watershed and posting signage about cleaning up after a dog has relieved itself. C. Parks has some concerns about the wording; instead of Water Works Property it should say public water works ... protection of public health should be indicated.

R. Weston moved to post an announcement on Front Porch Forum – as amended – informing the public about concerns of dog waste.

B. Finucane seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

B. Woodruff was asked what the process is for repairing fire hydrants in the town of Waterbury. Woodruff reports the water department staff are well versed in our hydrants and repairing them.

ADJOURN

B. Finucane made the motions to adjourn the meeting at 6:42pm.

N. Sherman seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

* Next meeting of the Edward Farrar Utility District: April 9, 2025

kia