

**MINUTES OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015 @ 6:00 P.M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

Members Present: Jes Alexant, Brooks Sturtevant and Marshall Ploof.

Guests: Peter Magnant, Yvon Dandurand and Sara Rainville (Secretary)

Jes called meeting to order at 6:05 pm, pledge of allegiance was said.

Approve minutes:

Motion made by Marshall/Brooks to approve January 26, 2015 minutes, all in favor; motion approved 3-0.

Motion made by Marshall/Brooks to approve January 12, 2015 minutes, all in favor, motion approved 3-0.

Water Operator Update:

Mark Brouillette was interviewed on January 26, 2015; all agreed that he is a suitable candidate for the position. Brooks contacted his references and received all good reviews from current/previous employers. Mark informed the board during the interview that he is in the process of training a back-up operator to fill in when he is not available.

Jes is drafting up a contract to offer the position to Mark, he will send the contract to the select board for review & approval.

Fire District Merger:

The latest merger & charter document was reviewed that Attorney Joseph McLean sent to Peter & the Town. The tentative effective date is listed as June 30, 2015, that date was discussed at length and what that may mean for the hiring of the water operator. It is possible that the legislature may not review or approve the merger before Town Meeting 2015.

The board discussed water system insurance coverage and asked that the Clerk's Office contact VLCT about the underground system being covered as well as the tank.

Brooks noted that he had gotten median household income information from the 2010 Census from a USDA contact; the median household income for Franklin was \$49,489 with the State of Vermont's being \$55,000+. Brooks will try to get village specific numbers from his contact.

Peter noted that he will speak to the attorney about the drafted charter & merger in regards to the effective date. Jes will also send a response to the State in regard to the deficiencies of the water system and plan of action; will also inform them of the latest happenings with the legislature approval.

It was noted that the next water user bills go out July 1, 2015.

Peter questioned when the water commission would be hiring Mark Brouillette. Peter suggested that the water commission offer him a contract with the effective date of July

1, 2015 for one year, ending June 30, 2016; the water commission members agreed. Jes will send Peter the tentative contract for review. Jes will contact Mark to update him on the status of the merger.

Yvon questioned if there is a waiting period after the legislature approves the merger; members noted that they have not heard of one, once legislature approves it, its final.

The terms of the water commissioners was discussed. The proposed charter & merger has written as "(a) The Selectboard shall appoint a three-member board who shall serve as the Board of Water Commissioners, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Selectboard. The terms of the members shall be three years for one Commissioner and two years for the other two Commissioners." The water commission and select board would like it to be as currently appointed, one commissioner for three years, one commissioner for two years and one commissioner for 1 year. Peter will speak to Representative Chuck Pearce about changing it.

Fire District Operation Monitoring During Transition:

Marshall stated that he will continue to operate and monitor the system until the merger is approved and finalized by the legislature.

Status of Engineering Study:

Jes will be in contact with Phelps Engineering to update them on the status of the merger and have them update the timeline they had given the water commission.

State Letter:

Jes will draft a letter to the State updating them on the merger timeline, will send to all members for review & approval.

Other:

Brooks stated that he had spoken to MVU High school about their school wide alert software; cost of the software is \$2,200 and has not been reliable to date when needed. Door to door notices will be the most effective way to get information out. Jes questioned the ability to get a pager for water operator and how reliable they are. Sara said that the Town currently has pagers for the Highway Department men that work everywhere as opposed to a cell phone that may not have coverage, may be able to add another line to current Town contract.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Brooks/Marshall made a motion to adjourn; all in favor 3-0, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectively,
Sara Rainville
February 10, 2015

These minutes are not official until approved at the Water Commissions next regular meeting.