

MINUTES OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY August 8, 2016 @ 6:00 P.M.
FELCO Room, Franklin Homestead

Annual Meeting

Members Present: Jes Alexant, Brooks Sturtevant, Marshall Ploof and Sara Rainville (secretary).

Guests: Mark Brouillette-water system operator, Ed Rainville, Yvon Dandurand, Peter Magnant-select board members, Robert Baran, Peter Benevento -Lake Carmi Campers Association, Pam Greene, David Thompson, Mark Larivee.

Annual Meeting called to order by Jes Alexant at 6:00 p.m., the pledge of allegiance was said.

Jes introduced the members of the water district and operator to the guests; monthly water district meeting held second Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office and always open to the public, all members & users of the water system invited to attend.

Recent Water System Activities:

Jes noted that the spring water line leaks have been repaired and water sampling is occurring as scheduled.

The water district contracted with Phelps Engineering to do a preliminary engineering study of the water system as the State of Vermont is requiring upgrades to be made. Changes to be addressed: flow meters on the holding tanks, standby chlorinator and limestone chip basket. The report was submitted to the State last fall and it's still under review by them. Since the initial contract with Phelps, Lance Phelps (owner) has retired and closed his company.

Status of Water System Project:

The water commissioners are hoping to hear back from the State sometime in September with their final comments; once that has been done, Otter Creek will do a contract and scope proposal, then a final design. The timeline for the upgrades was discussed; the water commissioners are hoping to put the funding article to vote at Town Meeting 2017 for the project and hope to be able to start the project spring 2017. There will be a public informational meeting about the project and funding options prior to Town Meeting. The original estimate the commissioners received for the work to be done was \$89,000; the members feel that this will likely go up due to the State adding more deficiencies to the project list.

Other Activities:

- *updating the water ordinance
- *hydraulic calculations
- *land use controls by spring-working with Select board, Planning Commission, landowners
- *continued water sampling
- *water line work from the curb to Town Hall and Church next door
- *low pressure user tank was installed on Main Street
- *tank is currently overflowing, even with dry conditions

Questions/Concerns:

None.

Brooks/Marshall made a motion to adjourn annual meeting; all in favor 3-0, motion passed. Annual meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Monthly Business Meeting

Members Present: Jes Alexant, Brooks Sturtevant, Marshall Ploof and Sara Rainville (secretary).

Guests: Mark Brouillette-water system operator, Ed Rainville, Yvon Dandurand, Peter Magnant-select board members, Robert Baran, Peter Benevento -Lake Carmi Campers Association, Pam Greene, David Thompson, Mark Larivee.

Monthly business meeting called to order by Jes Alexant at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Amendments:

None.

Public Comment:

Peter Magnant thanked the water commissioners, Mark Brouillette and Sara Rainville for all their work transitioning the water district over to the Town and their continued work/support to make things run smoothly.

LCCA-Water hookup:

Robert Baran stated that the LCCA pays for the water spigot on the outside of the Fire Station for Lake Carmi campers to use. Robert gave estimated statistics for each shore around the lake in regards to how many have wells & springs versus lake water for consumption, best guess there are 283 camps with about 58 that have lake water only running into their camps. This is all a best guess as no one has actually gone camp to camp on every shore to inquire.

Robert spoke to Dick Lang about the handshake agreement that was made with the Franklin Fire District and LCCA about the water spigot, Dick remembered the agreement being made and that it was for three units billed only once a year in July. The LCCA feels that with more camps having their own wells that the three units they are currently being charged should be reconsidered as its too much, they would like it brought down to one unit. Robert comments that the campers taking the water are only using for drinking & to cook, not showering or toilets. They also stated they can't be sure that ONLY campers around the lake are using the spigot at the Fire Station. Members all agreed there is no way to track who is using it. Pam Greene asked for clarification on the amount that is currently in question, Sara noted \$450 was billed July 1, 2016 to the LCCA, they only get billed in July of each year.

Sara questioned Robert and Peter as to the money that pays for the water bill, she was under the impression it's collected through the LCCA yearly dues that campers pay. Does everyone that pays their dues know they are paying for and have access to that water spigot?? Do the people that have wells/springs complain or have concerns when they pay their dues because they don't need/use the spigot?? LCCA responded members know its part of their dues and that they haven't received any concerns from people that have their own water source, they

don't advertise in their meeting or expense report the water fee itself, its lumped in with other items in an expense line.

Ed Rainville spoke on the great quality of the Franklin water and that feels that the LCCA is getting a great value at \$450 a year for unlimited access to water from April-October.

The commissioners thanked LCCA members and they exited the meeting.

Approve Minutes:

Marshall/Jes made the motion to approve the July 11, 2016 minutes, all in favor, motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Sara presented the water commissioners with a trial balance report for FY17; checking account balance \$31,886.41.

A warrant with supporting invoices for FY17 totaling \$1,060.56 was submitted for review and signatures by the members; the water commissioners reviewed and signed the warrant.

Sara stated about \$3,000 is outstanding from the July 1, 2016 billing to water users.

Town Hall Water Line Project:

Mark Brouillette has a price for supplies for replacing the Town hall and church waterlines from the curb to the buildings; \$400 +/- for PVC pipe (same size as existing copper) and curb stops. The members and select board would also like insulation board added on top of the new PVC lines for another \$200+/- . Based on a current bill from Wright's, the members feel that the project can be done for \$2600. Sara noted that the town hall use will be less the next couple weeks if Mark could get Wright's to do the work in that time frame it would be less disruptive. Peter Magnant stated that the select board has already approved \$3,000 for their portion of the project and they would like Mark B to oversee the work.

Sally Boudreau-Water hookup:

Sally Boudreau left a message with the Town Clerk's Office inquiring about only paying her water bill once a year as she is gone from October –April. Doesn't feel that she should have to pay for a full year when not using and it's turned off. In the past her water was turned off in the fall by Marshall and the lines were emptied, then in the spring she was turned back on. She has continued to pay January 1 and July 1 bills in full ever year. She was never charged a disconnect or reconnection fee when the Franklin Fire District #1 ran the water system, now its causing the water operator to make special trips into town to do it.

Marshall/Brooks made the motion that a disconnect fee be set at \$50 and a reconnect fee be set at \$50, all members in favor, motion passed. Jes will update the water ordinance fee section.

Sara to draft a letter for Jes to sign stating above fees to Sally.

Hubbard-Vacant lot:

David Thompson stated that he is purchasing the vacant Hubbard lot on Main Street and is inquiring as to if that lot can be reconnected to the Town's water system?? It's been a few years since a home was on the property and he is planning on building on the lot soon.

Marshall gave background on the water system adding additional users and that the State has a moratorium, not allowing any more users to existing system. If the reconnection was to be allowed by the State, there will need to be a pump added in the house due to the elevation of the house & property.

Jes will contact the State of Vermont to see if this can be allowed-reconnecting a home and adding a pump. The members will get back to Mr. Thompson with their findings, he gave his contact information to Sara; David Rood also left a message with the Clerk's office asking to be updated of findings.

David was thanked and exited the meeting.

System upgrade update/Otter Creek:

Jes noted he spoke with John Kiernan at Otter Creek Engineering and there has not been any word from the State with final comments on the study Phelps Engineering submitted to them. Once final comments are received by the water commissioners, a contract will be done with Otter Creek Engineering.

Water Use Ordinance/Bylaws:

Jes is still working on making the suggested changes, will add changes from tonight's meeting, he will resend the document to Sara to distribute to all members.

Planning Loan:

Sara presented the commissioners with a final request for reimbursement and supporting documents for the approved planning loan, members all in favor of Jes signing; Sara will submit completed documents to State of Vermont for reimbursement of \$7,544 that was approved and previously expensed.

Other Business:

Mark and Mark talked about the water quality at the Highway garage, all samples normal.

Jes/Marshall made the motion to have Mark Brouillette sign the monthly water sampling submittal forms that go to the State, all members in favor, motion passed 3-0. Mark will CC: the Town Clerk's Office and they will forward to all water commissioners and the select board.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Clerk's Office.

Brooks/Marshall made a motion to adjourn; all in favor 3-0, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully,
Sara Rainville
August 10, 2016

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