

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, June 4, 2019**

Roll Call: Commissioners Dennis Donahue, Steve Fitzhugh, Dave Maxwell, Nathaniel Miller. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Pat Demasi, Finance Director Laurie Baroffio. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes from Previously Meeting

Motion by Dave Maxwell, seconded by Nathaniel Miller, to approve the minutes of May 8, 2019. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission

FY 19/20 Electric Budget

The Electric Commission continued its discussion of the FY 19/20 Electric Budget and completed work on the operation maintenance budget which included increases in the following areas: power expenses up \$144,620, station expense up \$5,000; maintenance of distribution system up \$15,000, administrative charges up \$4,500, outside services up \$42,590, employee wages and benefits up \$19,800, and miscellaneous expenses up \$9,400.

Next, the Commission started discussing the CIP. Steve Fitzhugh stated that the smart meter process is moving in a positive direction as VPPSA has contracted with a private company to assess the readiness of its members to implement AMI technology for their electric and water utilities. The contractor assessed NED's readiness and found that NED is nearly ready to implement AMI. At the last VPPSA meeting, VPPSA members voted to proceed to the next level and develop a request for proposals; which will provide more information and is a prelude to a full request for bids on AMI implementation. Based on previously estimates of about \$600,000 for smart meters, Steve recommended maintaining the smart meter CIP balance at \$600,000.

Next, Steve stated that VPPSA is obtaining a price for battery storage at the King Street to help solve the peak capacity issues in the market and for the establishment of micro-grid for the downtown. Steve is working to have numbers by the next meeting to include in the CIP. Steve is also seeking numbers to install security cameras at the King Street substation.

Next, the Commission discussed including funds in the CIP for the potential purchase of the lands adjacent to the King Street substation. The home on this property is vacant and in disrepair, and may be worth purchasing for the extension of the substation. Jeff will obtain information on the assessed value of the property.

Next, the Commission discussed the line realignment projects in the CIP including on Turkey Hill, Dole Hill, Terry Hill and Water Street and whether these projects should proceed at this time. Patrick will obtain a quote from GMP for the Turkey Hill project. The Commission agreed to continue its discussion of the line realignment projects and the other CIP items at the next Utility Commission meeting.

Other Items

Steve Fitzhugh stated that NED's Integrated Resource Plan has been submitted to the PUC. Also, the Bone Hill Solar project is progressing as the developer and property owner have signed an agreement to proceed with the project.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Stormwater Issues

Jeff Schulz stated that we are working with the owners of the Nantanna property to remove site stormwater from entering the sewer treatment system. Currently, it is estimated that over 1,200,000 gallons of stormwater annually from the site enters the Town's sewer system. Because of the impact of the stormwater on the plant, and that the State is mandating the removal of phosphorus, it is important to remove the stormwater from the sewer system. The State of Vermont ANR may be willing to provide grant funding towards the actual improvements to separate the stormwater lines from the sewer system. However, a plan is needed for any grant application. I have obtained a quote of \$1,600 for an engineering firm to do the plan, however, there is the issue of paying for the plan. The Commission suggested that the Town enter into an agreement such that if the property owner paid for the plan/study, and agreed to do the improvements, the Town would reimburse the property owner the cost of the plan.

Next, Jeff and Patrick gave an update on the sludge issue at the sewer plant noting that the sludge is being transported to the Barre City Sewer Plant and then taken to a compost facility in Canada. Thus far Barre City officials indicate that the process is working well.

Motion by Dave Maxwell, second by Denis Donahue to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric Commission and the Water/Sewer Commissions. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager