

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission  
And the Electric Utility Commission  
Meeting Minutes, October 1, 2019**

**Roll Call:** Steve Fitzhugh, Dave Maxwell, Nathaniel Miller, Dennis Donahue. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Patrick Demasi . The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

**Approval of Minutes from the July 7, 2019 Meeting**

Motion by Dave Maxwell, seconded by Dennis Donahue, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2019. The minutes were amended to remove the second sentence of the Bone Hill discussion. **Motion as amended passed 4-0.**

**Meeting of the Electric Commission**

**AMI/Smart Meters**

Steve Fitzhugh noted that VPPSA recently send out a request for information to collect information about the capabilities of various vendors to provide smart meters for VPPSA members. VPPSA received nine proposals and have since narrowed the field to three companies: Home Town Connections, Aclara, and Landis & Gyr. The next step will be for VPSSA to seek full cost proposals from the three vendors. The goal is to have smart meters in place by 2021.

**Bone Hill Solar**

Steve Fitzhugh gave an update on the Bone Hill Solar Project stating that we received a purchase power contact/agreement in which VPPSA will sell power to Northfield Electric Department (NED) generated from the Bone Hill Solar project. The project is scheduled to start commercial operation in 2020. This project will help NED meet its obligations under the VT Renewable Energy requirements.

**Other Business**

Steve noted, as discussed previously, that the installation of renewable energy projects state-wide have created problems for the GMP's system due to a transfer-trip issue, and it is delaying projects from coming on-line. In Northfield there are four projects affected by this issue and include: Bone Hill (1.2MW), Darn Tough (350 kW), National Guard (150 kW), and Nantanna (250kW). In an effort to solve the issue, GMP has initiated a tariff charge of \$34 per kilowatt such that owners of renewable projects will pay into a fund to offset the required system upgrades.

Steve also noted that Act 79 requires the VT Department of Public Service to assess the feasibility of VT's electric utilities providing broadband service using their electric utility infrastructure. As part of that requirement the VT Department of Public Service is requesting that the electric utilities complete a survey that seeks information about the utilities and specifically regarding the feasibility and opportunities for the utility to provide broadband using its electric infrastructure. In completing the survey, Steve and Jeff met with George Goodrich (Trans-video) and determined that NED's service is fully covered by Trans-video's broadband service (with the exception of a small area off Dole Hill).

Steve added that the West Hill Interconnection Agreement effort is still on-going and that another draft revised has been developed. The issue at this time is whether or not a tariff is required.

## **Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission**

### **Stormwater**

Jeff Schulz stated that he met with the owners of the Nantanna Mill several months ago to discuss several items, including the separation of their stormwater system from the Town's sewer system. At that time, the owners indicated that they would think about it and get back. After not receiving a follow-up call, Jeff emailed and wrote a letter to owners requesting a meeting and stated that the Town prefers to work cooperatively versus the Town invoking its ordinance to assess additional sewer charges. The owners agreed to meet and then canceled the meeting.

Jeff noted that the VT Department of Natural Resources (with the assistance of a consulting engineer) is offering, at no cost, to provide technical assistance to Northfield to study and advise on ways to optimize phosphorus removal from the sewage retreatment plant. This effort will be for 12 months and will include an analysis of the existing system, operating methods and procedures.

### **138 King Street Land Purchase**

Jeff stated that he sent a letter to the property owner at 138 King Street (Lockerby) stating that the Town and NED is interested in purchasing the property to increase the land area of its substation on the adjacent property. The letter stated that the substation structure and related infrastructure are of sufficient size for the substation to continue to function adequately; however, the Town's goal is to increase the buffer from the adjoining property and improve general site circulation. The Town's current assessed value of the property for property taxation is \$76,800.

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

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager