

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, May 3, 2021**

Roll Call: Steve Fitzhugh, Dennis Donahue, John Stevens, Charlie Morse. Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Finance Director Laurie Baroffio, Utility Superintendent Patrick Demasi. The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes of April 5, 2021

Motion by Charlie Morse, seconded by Steve Fitzhugh, to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting.

Meeting of the Electric Commission

FY 21/22 Electric Budget

Jeff Schulz reviewed the draft electric budget noting that the estimated revenue and power purchase cost numbers were prepared and recently provided by VPPSA. The information shows that the total estimated revenue is project to increase by 3.8% (\$4,036,890 to \$4,217,320). Energy sales, which makes up the majority of the revenues, are projected to increase by 3.9%.

Next, Jeff discussed the operating budget noting that the overall FY21/22 Electric Utility expenditures are increasing by 6% (\$3,794,240 to \$4,020,930). The purchase power costs (the largest budget item) are increasing by 6.8% (\$2,904,960 to \$3,101,641). Personnel costs are increasing by 3.9% and are due to wages and benefits. As with the water and sewer budgets, the increase in health care costs in the electric budget have been somewhat reduced due employees paying a greater share of the health insurance premiums.

Steve Fitzhugh presented the draft Electric CIP budget reviewing the specific line items. The Commission discussed the CIP budget and Steve agreed to update the Electric CIP based on the discussion and to include a written description of the capital projects and items.

Charlie Morse, seconded by John Sevens, made a motion to approve the FY 21/22 Budget as presented. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Other Business

Jeff noted that the Town of Northfield has prevailed in several lawsuits (HAAR v Northfield) in which the owner of the Northfield's Fall Mobile Home Park sued the Town over the Town's authority to place a lien on the mobile home park property

from the nonpayment of electric utility bills from owners of mobile homes located on park property. HARR first filed the lawsuit in Federal Court and the Court ruled for the Town. Next, HARR filed the same lawsuit in Vermont State Court and the VT Court rule against HAAR. HARR then filed for reconsideration by the VT Court, which again ruled in the Town's favor.

Steve Fitzhugh gave an update on the Bone Hill Solar Project noting that the conduit and concrete vaults have been ordered and will be installed by end of May. The project should come on-line at the end of August.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

FY 21/22 Water/Sewer Budgets

Jeff stated that the draft FY 21/22 Water and Sewer Budgets were presented at the last Commission meeting and the Commissioners asked for additional time to review the budgets. The draft budgets before the Commission include a very minor change due to health insurance – the change will not affect rates.

Motion by Charlie Morse, second by Dennis Donahue to approve the FY 21/22 Water/Sewer Budgets as presented. **Motion approved 4-0.**

Motion by John Stevens, second by Charlie Morse to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric and the Water/Sewer Commission. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager