

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, January 4, 2021**

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

Approval of Minutes from the December 7, 2020 Meeting

Motion by Charlie Morse, seconded by Dennis Donahue, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission

Renewable Energy Projects

Steve Fitzhugh stated that Encore Renewables will not be installing the conduit for the Bone Hill Solar project this winter due to the winter weather. Charlie Mores noted that it appears that the staked out the road up the hill.

Steve stated that in 2013, and as part of the smart-grid grant, NED performed recloser and battery upgrades at the King Street sub-station. However, the results of the recent feasibility study for the new solar projects in Northfield identified a transfer-trip issue and the need for additional battery upgrades at the King Street sub-station. The cost of the battery and related components is \$40,000. GMP will install the battery. Charlie Morse asked for the cost for GMP to install the batteries. Steve stated approximately \$10,000. Steve added that GMP will also install the fiber optics for the station.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Main Street Stormwater Project

Jeff Schulz stated that at the last meeting, the Commission discussed the South Main Street Stormwater elimination and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Abatement project and how to fund the project. Specifically, the Commission discussed whether the project cost should be split between the Town Budget and the Sewer Budget. Previously, the Commission agreed that there should be some cost sharing between the two, however, the percentage share is still being debated. Jeff added that it is somewhat difficult to establish an equitable formula for the percentage split as the decision is more philosophical. For example, one could argue that the Town should pay a higher percentage share as it is the primary source of the stormwater, versus the Sewer Utility which will benefit from the removal of the stormwater from the plant.

Charlie Morse stated that it would be helpful to have a spreadsheet showing the cost impact of the project on the utility rate payers and the town taxpayers. Charlie added that the project will be a hard sell to residents not on municipal water and sewer, and therefore the Commission and Select Board will need to formula a strategy and public relations plan to sell the project to the voters.

Steve Fitzhugh asked about the potential fines for not complying with the permit and the State's order for regarding the elimination of the CSO.

John Stevens asked for information of the actual cost of the stormwater into the plant. Jeff and Pat stated that they will provide a cost analyzes of the stormwater on the sewer plant and of the potential cost impact of the project on the Town and sewer rate payers.

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

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager