

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, August 3, 2020**

Roll Call: Steve Fitzhugh, Dennis Donahue, John Stevens, Charlie Morse (absent). Others present: Town Manager Jeff Schulz, Utility Superintendent Patrick Demasi. Mike Delary. The meeting started at 6:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes from the May 18, 2020 Meeting

Motion by Dennis Donahue, seconded by John Stevens, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020. **Motion as amended passed 3-0.**

Meeting of the Electric Commission

Solar Project Updates

Steve Fitzhugh presented an update on the Bone Hill solar project noting that the Certificate of Public Good (CPG) for the project is still pending from the Public Utility. Also, NED is working on the inter-connect agreement between NED, VPPSA and the developer which discusses costs and obligations for the parties. A facility study was completed for the project which details the technical issues and provides the basis for the inter-connect agreement. The property owner, Mr. Goodrich is requesting that the project power be under ground which potentially adds to the cost of the project

NED still has not received any updates from Darn Tough on their proposed solar project. The CPG for the Army Guard Armory project was approved and the project is anticipated to go online in November, 2020.

Next, Steve discussed a potential solar project on Norwich University property to the North of the Town's wellfield. A potential solar project on the property will likely be constructed by a private developer. NED could potentially do a land swap with Norwich and NED would then have a private developer build it. The first step is to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether the project is feasible. NED will approach GMP about doing the study.

Other Business

Steve noted that the Public Service Department recommended that the Public Utility Commission approve the West Hill inter-connect agreement between NED and GMP, which will allow for the interconnect to start.

The PUC extended the order halting disconnections of electric customers through the end of September.

The State of Vermont's Department of Public Service, using federal COVID funds, is offering electric utility customers funds to pay for arrearage on electric bills. The program covers utility bills that are more than 60 days overdue. The PUC is requiring NED to participate in the program. NED will be doing public outreach to the rate payers with details of the program.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Dennis Donahue stated that he has been contacted by a resident regarding a lack of municipal sewer along South Route 12 and 12A and that this raises two concerns: potential health issues from failed septic systems, and that a lack of sewer limits potential development in this area of Town. Northfield resident Mike Delary joined the meeting and echoed Dennis's comments, and asked what would it take to extend municipal sewer along Route 12 and 12A. Dennis noted that the Town had previously prepared engineering plans for the expansion of municipal sewer along South Route 12 and Route 12A. He added that the project did not move forth due to concerns by the community requiring property owners in the area of the proposed project to connect to the sewer system.

The Commission further discussed the sewer project and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting. Also, the Commission asked the Manager and the Utility Superintendent to locate the project plans and share with the Commission at the next meeting.

Water Ordinance

Jeff Schulz stated that the Commission had previously reviewed a draft of an updated water ordinance, and that if there are no further questions or concerns with the ordinance, he would clean up the document and provide it to the Commission for final review and approval.

Motion by Dennis Donahue, second by John Stevens to adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Electric Commission and the Water/Sewer Commissions. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Jeff Schulz, Town Manager