

**Joint Meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission
And the Electric Utility Commission
Meeting Minutes, May 18, 2020**

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

Meeting of the Electric Commission

Route 12 Power Line to Feeder Analysis

Steve Fitzhugh stated that an analysis of the power lines and feeders on Route 12 is needed for the solar projects and ask for a motion to have the analysis completed. Charlie Morse made a motion, second by John Stevens, to complete the analysis. **Motion passed 3-0.**

FY 20/21 Electric Budget

The Utility Commission further reviewed the draft FY 20/21 budget electric budget which as prepared does not necessitate a rate change from Public Utility Commission. Steve Fitzhugh presented a CIP project list which includes the following projects: Substation Battery Bank Upgrade, Advanced Metering, Substation Surveillance, Water St. Transmission Realignment Project, Digital Communication Systems, Terry Hill and Turkey Realignments, Cabot Expansion, Bone Hill Solar, System Analysis, Cybersecurity, and Battery Storage.

Charlie Morse asked about the purchase of the Ford Escape and whether funding for an electric vehicle charging station should be added to the CIP. Steve Fitzhugh noted that the Ford Escape is for meter reading and to take water and sewer test samples to the testing lab. Also, he noted that we considered applying for grants for a charging station, but determined it would not pay for itself and there would be an on-going cost to the Town for the station. Further, Norwich was planning to apply for grant funding and install two stations.

Next, John Stevens asked if the power poles on Western Ave., Vine Street and in front of the Rustic could be moved out of the street as they pose a safety hazard. Charlie asked about the Cabot expansion and whether that was for the main plant or at Nantanna. Steve noted that it is for the main plant.

Motion by Charlie Morse, second by John Stevens to approve the FY 20/21 electric Budget. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Other Business

Steve Fitzhugh noted that the VT legislature is requiring that the Public Utility Commission (PUC) assess the feasibility of VT utilities incorporating Broadband service into VT Utility systems, and as a result, the PUC is requesting VT Utilities complete a questionnaire/survey with questions about their systems and the potential to incorporate Broadband into their systems. Steve added that Trans-video's service area closely mirrors that of NED's system, and as a result, no additional broadband service is needed within NED's system.

Meeting of Water and Sewer Commission

Water Ordinance

The Commission decided to postpone discussion of the water ordinance due to the Chair Dennis Donahue's absence.

Motion by Charlie Morse, 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