

Edward Farrar Utility District
December 14, 2022
4:30 P.M.
Minutes

Present in the Steele Community Room: P.H. Flanders, L. Sayah, R. Finucane, C. Parks, N. Sherman; Commissioners. W. Shepeluk, B. Woodruff, T. Leitz, D Calle; staff. Members of the public attending: T. Stevens, T. Woods; Vermont State Representatives.

Present via Zoom: A. Johnson

Chairperson Flanders called the meeting to order at 4:32 P.M.

Approve Agenda: W. Shepeluk asked to add the approval of the transfer of 4 parcels from EFUD to the Town at the end and asked to move up the discussion about funding options for Route 100 Water line extension as a first point of discussion. C. Parks asked to add a review water ordinance before the Department Reports. **N. Sherman made a motion to approve the amended agenda; R. Finucane seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Update on potential funding options for Route 100 Water line extension: Board and staff presented this issue to Vermont State Representatives attending meeting. T. Leitz explained that the state, despite having more funds than ever, have not changed the rules for those applying for revolving loan funds. Because of this Waterbury is not eligible for a grant funds as the median income of the residents is too high according to current rules. W. Shepeluk explained this project will expand water service available on Rt 100, with a cross-country route for a new transmission main from below the highway garage on Guptil Rd. to Rt 100 near McNeil Lane. An 8 inch main could then be extended north on Rt 100 to upgrade the current 1 inch main that runs from the Natural Food Store to Howard Avenue. It would expand fire protection as there is none in this area; would incorporate 3 private water systems to our public water system; and will improve water quality dramatically to the residents of this area. T. Woods brought up that most projects now are funded from multiple funding sources including loans. T. Leitz mentioned that the cost for each resident would be \$200 monthly for 20 years just for the infrastructure. Both representatives understood the problem and the issues with the current grant rules. T. Leitz and W. Shepeluk are looking for other grants, but hope the representatives would be able to advocate for changes to the current rules for the state funding. In the meantime T. Leitz said that there is a new program called the Community Recovery & Revitalization program and municipal water systems are eligible and asked for approval to apply. This grant would cover 20% of the project cost, up to one million dollars and the town would apply after January 1st, 2023. **R. Finucane made a motion to authorize Town Manager to apply for funding for the Route 100 extension via the Community Recovery & Revitalization program. C. Parks seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Update on Duxbury/Moretown Transfer to EFUD: T. Leitz gave an update on the current transfer. Duxbury/Moretown had decided to close their bank account about a month ago, presented EFUD with the total of their funds, and left EFUD with no account where to deposit the payments from the Duxbury/Moretown residents. The attorneys agreed on EFUD opening a new bank account where to deposit all those funds. EFUD won't touch the funds until we get more clarity. Attorneys advise that the cleanest way to wrap up the transfer is to have the legislature merge both districts. P.H. Flanders brought his concern about EFUD boundaries changing. W. Shepeluk explained that the boundaries will not change, EFUD will simply take ownership of the infrastructure. T. Leitz explained that Duxbury/Moretown has legally warned and advertised this transfer to their residents.

Update on the Water Plant Staffing: W. Woodruff updated the board on the new water staff. Two new employees were hired and started right after Thanksgiving. They are Kenny Ryan and Kyle Guyette. They both have signed up for a water class starting in February to take their exam and Kenny Ryan is also signed up for the wastewater class in order to take that exam as well. Matt Jones, current wastewater operator, passed the water exam last month. The plant is fully staffed at this point. They will both attend the January meeting in order to introduce themselves to the board. P.H. Flanders will do a presentation on zoom for the new hires and the commissioners.

Quarterly water and sewer revenues comparison to last quarter and also changes in water usage at Ice Center: P.H. Flanders presented the findings regarding usage from the Ice Center. The new system is saving about \$2,200 dollars per quarter. W. Shepeluk provided an update on the water tower penalty from the Ice Center. As of December 10th, the Ice Center has donated 13 hours of ice, as well as waiving skate rental fees for the schools and the Waterbury Rec. Program. This information translates to the following numbers:

September: 120 free skaters and 80 free rentals

October: 135 skaters and 60 free rentals

November: 92 skaters and 80 free rentals.

In addition, for November, there was a sled hockey tournament with 6 teams of about 20 skaters each team. They were not charge for this event.

Department Reports: W. Woodruff reported that the water department is having a typical year and that the sewer department completed the sewer connection at the cabinet shop up in Colbyville. There were no major problems with this project. Regarding the dry hydrant at Oakwood Estates, the Water Department will excavate in the spring and repair it.

Review Water Ordinance: C. Parks brought up her concern about the water ordinance and some of the language that was used might not be correct. W. Woodruff commented that there isn't a timeline on the ordinance and that it is something we can wait on until everybody has reviewed it.

Update on Downstreet transfer of 51 So Main and discussion of deed conditions and possible ownership and partnership models used by Downstreet. S. Lotspeich, W. Shepeluk and T. Leitz met with Downstreet to hash out some details regarding the transfer and deed. While there are some minor issues everything is on schedule for the transfer to be completed.

Approval of the transfer of four parcels from EFUD to the Town: W. Shepeluk asked for approval of the transfer of four parcels from EFUD to the town. P.H. Flanders questioned whether we had the correct deed for the Ice Center. Therefore, he recommended not to approve that one but still move forward with the other three. **N. Sherman made a motion to approve the transfer of the three Warranty Deeds conveying the Welcome Sign Parcel, the 4 & 6 Elm Street Parking Lot Parcel, and the rusty Parker Memorial Park Parcel from the Edward Farrar Utility District to the Town of Waterbury and to authorize P.H. Flanders to execute the three Warranty Deeds. R. Finucane seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.**

Consider proposed UDAG loan procedures: While working as Economic Development Director for Revitalizing Waterbury, A. Johnson had drafted a set of procedures for evaluating loan requests from the UDAG Fund, which W. Shepeluk has now updated. This new document was discussed by the Board. The language will be reviewed by all members and will reconvene next meeting to discuss the final draft of the updated procedures.

Consider Minutes November 9th 2022: L. Sayah made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9th, 2022 as written. C.Parks seconded the motion; a vote was held and passed unanimously.

C. Parks made a motion, seconded by L. Sayah to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the EFUD is scheduled for Wednesday January 11th, 2023 at 4:30pm