

Town of Bristol, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes of
Monday, November 7, 2022

Selectboard Members Present: Chair Ian Albinson, Joel Bouvier, Peeker Heffernan (via phone), Michelle Perlee, Darla Senecal.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Valerie Capels, Public Works Foreman Eric Cota, Fire Chief Brett LaRose, Town Clerk Sharon Lucia.

Others Present: Shawn Kimball (NEAT TV), Cyrus Marsano (VTUMS), Jill Marsano (VTUMS), Steve Palmer (VTM).

I. Call to Order. Ian Albinson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm aboard a Bet-Cha Transit bus.

II. Public Forum.

No members of the public were present. Ian Albinson provided an overview of voting procedures and the need to bring absentee ballots. He also noted the three local ballot items: (1) Pine Street water line replacement bond vote; (2) MAUSD merger; and (3) election of new members to a new merged board. He noted the bond vote must be voted by the entire Town but will be paid back just by water system users. Polls will be open from 7:00am to 7:00pm upstairs at Holley Hall.

III. Pine Street Water Line Replacement Bond Vote Public Information Meeting.

Valerie Capels introduced Town Engineer Steve Palmer with VTM Engineering. Steve provided an overview of where the project is intended to be located: on Pine Street from North Street to west end. He explained the findings of the preliminary engineering report (PER) prepared by Green Mountain Engineering, that was approved by the state in 2021.

There is a high rate of leakage in the pipes constructed in 1905, particularly at joints. Lack of distribution system replacement will result in:

- Decreased water system reliability.
- Ever increasing leakage rate.
- Increased emergency repair costs.
- Decreasing pavement quality due to repairs (Town wide).
- Increased potential for isolation valve failures.
- Increased potential for catastrophic failures and required system wide shutdowns.
- Increased risk of distribution system contamination.
- Increased annual operational costs including electricity for pumps, chlorine costs and treatment system replacement parts.

The anticipated schedule was briefly reviewed. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan application has been submitted and the permit to construct is expected to be issued in the next week. The loan is expected to be awarded in June 2023.

Jill Marsano explained how the scale buildup occurs in the iron pipes and the effect on water flow and capacity. Specific details of the project design were discussed.

Valerie explained that the anticipated loan amount is \$940,000. DWSRF loan forgiveness is estimated to be 50%, resulting in a loan amount of \$470,000. Over 30 years at an interest rate of 2% results in a total estimated annual payment of \$21,000. Divided among 637 connected customers results in an average monthly rate increase of \$2.75.

Steve explained the new water line will closely follow the center line of the road and the existing line will be abandoned in place. They were trying to balance the location of the anticipated stormwater line and the required ten feet separation. The stormwater project would need to be a separate project with separate funding. As a Town road, it would be a Townwide expense. We will try to combine them as best as possible. The stormwater project is estimated to cost approximately just under \$600,000. Steve hopes to meet with the DPW Foreman on the site to see if they can identify ways to reduce the costs.

Steve explained the Pine Street water line was listed as a priority in the PER because of its age. Another street listed as a priority is Liberty Street, built in 1983, because its pipe size needs to be increased. Steve emphasized that it is up to the Selectboard to determine the priorities. Some of the order of priorities may have been influenced by street paving schedules. Jill pointed out there are more water lines in town than those listed in the report.

The width of Pine Street was discussed and whether there is room for a sidewalk. Steve explained the water project will only pay for that area of pavement directly impacted by the water line.

There was brief discussion about whether it is known how many galvanized service lines off the Pine Street main and whether replacement of those lines with copper can be coordinated with this project. Jill estimated about 10 or 15. It can be checked from the basement. She noted the asset management plan should be updated to include this information. Joel and Pecker noted they have dug up old galvanized lines that went nowhere.

Asked by Joel Bouvier when the reservoir loan will be retired, Valerie replied 2037 and that it was a 40 year bond.

IV. Other Business.

Valerie noted that upcoming meetings on the agenda should be corrected to include November 14, 2002.

V. Adjourn.

At 8:50pm Joel Bouvier moved to adjourn the meeting. Michelle Perlee seconded. So voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Capels, Town Administrator