

MOOSE HILL WATER COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Virtual Meeting: The meeting was held in the “go to meeting” app, licensed to the Town.

Members Present: Jay Powell, Michael Shivick

Members Absent: Kurt Parliment

Others Present: Director of Inspectional Services Michelle Buck

Call to Order

Chair Shivick called the meeting to Order at 6:00pm and lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Correspondence

Mr. Shivick explained he had sent correspondence to the Town of Spencer and City of Worcester regarding possible cooperation on regional water. He noted that continued interconnection with other entities risked losing local control, including MWRA rates passed onto the Leicester, Cherry Valley, and Rochdale ratepayers, in addition to additional rates charged by Worcester.

Mr. Shivick further mentioned he had invited each of the water districts to be present at the meeting with Cherry Valley Rochdale Water District responding they would not attend and Leicester Water Supply District not tendering any response at all. Mr. Shivick thanked CVRWD for the correspondence.

Water Study Correspondence

It was further relayed that Weston & Sampson had corresponded with the Commission regarding a First Draft of their water study. Mr. Shivick had made objections to the form and substance of the first draft, and then had received correspondence through the town from Weston & Sampson that they were then unilaterally withdrawing their first draft as incomplete. The Commission was informed a second completed draft would be tendered for approval by the Commission, after input was made by the districts and Commission regarding the first draft.

Moose Hill Water Commission

Rule and Regulations: Ms. Shivick illustrated the reasons for having rules and regulations for the Commission and requested the members be ready to vote on them for the next meeting. Mr. Powell asked whether other towns had similar rules. Mr. Shivick stated we did not want to end up in a situation like Spaulding v City of Natick (2018). He noted a public actor cannot regulate the content of a particular individual’s speech arbitrarily. Mr. Powell agreed.

2003 Intermunicipal Agreement

Mr. Shivick stated the language in the IMA was important since CVRWD ratepayers subsidized the LWSD infrastructure and then were told they were on their own. Moose Hill cost of development increases each time it is revisited, but the numbers Mr. Parliment quoted at the last meeting had no basis in fact. A more reasonable amount to anticipate would be \$20-30mil.

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Money from the state and federal government would be necessary. It is the town's responsibility to bring moose hill online and put a spigot in the middle of town and say come and get it. He noted that no current member of the commission built Moose Hill or signed a 25 year contract to develop the reservoir, but were obligated to do their job. He stated that if we were talking about Rochdale Pond and there was no contract, then the anti-moose hill crowd's rhetoric would be warranted but seemed out of step since we were talking about a certified public water supply and a contract under MGL c.40 s.4A.

Mr. Powell added that we have a reservoir while we spend crazily to hook up to Worcester. Selling the water is important to developing the project. We need to get moose hill online for the people of Leicester, Rochdale, and Cherry Valley. The number one concern is the residents of Leicester and this is why he ran for this seat.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn. Shivick Seconded. Parliament absent.

2-0-0 Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:19pm.

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