

**Stowe Selectboard, Liquor Commission & Water/Sewer Commission Meeting
Monday April 24, 2023**

Present:

Selectboard Members: William Adams, Jo Sabel Courtney, Lisa Hagerty, Paco Aumand

In Person attendees: Paul Sakash, Jill Anne, Doug White, Elizabeth Soper, Sandra Kuhl, John Muldoon

There were 4 participants on Zoom.

Call to Order

Chair Lisa Hagerty called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. She thanked the Stowe Police for their assistance in the apprehension of an active shooter in neighboring Morrisville.

Approve the Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Billy Adams, seconded by Ms. Jo Sabel Courtney, the Board approved the agenda with item A-2 pulled from the Consent Agenda.

Consent Agenda

1. Selectboard Meeting Policy – Change in Meeting Date
2. PULLED
3. Special Event Application – Bailey Soccer Jamboree
4. SED Banner Request
5. Reappointments – One year & Three year terms
6. Highway F550 and Parks F350 Truck Bid Award
7. Liquor Consent Items
8. Water/Sewer Allocation: 23 Toll House Lane Unit 4A

On a motion by Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Courtney, the Board approved the Consent Agenda with item A-2 pulled for approval at a future Selectboard Meeting.

Mountain Road Sanitary and Storm Sewer Replacement Easement & Bid Award

Public Works Director Mr. Harry Shepard explained that this was the easements and bid award for two separate capital projects, the Storm Sewer being a General Fund Capital Project, and the replacement of the Sanitary Sewer being a Wastewater Capital Project. This area has been problematic, older sewer line that will be removed and connected to a major sewer lateral located behind the West Branch Apartment Building. Concurrently, the storm drainage will also be installed adjacent to the sewer lines. Currently the storm drainage is connected into a private drainage system that is not in great condition. Mr. Shepard noted that there was only one bidder for the work – Dale E Percy, a known local contractor, and that the bid was favorable and below budget. He said the work is scheduled to bring in late spring/early summer and take 75 days to complete. There will be impacts to the Doc Ponds parking lot, but only minor traffic impacts are anticipated. The Town has also secured easements from the two properties where the lines will go through, both for temporary construction and permanent access to the pipes.

On a motion by Ms. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Board accepted the Sanitary and Storm Sewer Easements over the properties at 276 and 294 Mountain Road and authorize recording in the Stowe Land Records, and awarded the bid for the Mountain Road Sanitary and Storm Sewer Replacement to Dale E. Percy Inc in the amount of \$175,943.57 and authorize the Town Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Town.

Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Assessment

Mr. Shepard explained that as a condition of the Town's 2020 VTDEC Discharge Permit, the Town is required to undertake an Engineering Evaluation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System by the end of 2024. Mr. Shepard has secured a proposed agreement with Aldrich & Elliot, the Town's Water/Sewer Engineers, for this effort. It was noted that this was budgeted as an FY'23 Sewer Capital project for \$85,000, however the proposed agreement is for \$44,900. Mr. Shepard indicated the savings were largely due to the work done by Mr. Kestrel Owens in the Public Works Department, who has undertaken in-house GID location and inspection of 80% of the manholes in our collection system.

On a motion by Mr. Paco Aumand, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Board accepted the proposed agreement with Aldrich & Elliot for the Engineering Evaluation of the Town Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System and authorize the Town Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Town.

PFAS Drinking Water Response – Alternative Raw Water Source Assessment, Capital Amendment & Contract Award

Mr. Shepard noted that the Town is continuing its efforts to address PFAS in the drinking water supply. He explained that the EPA max level standards have been set to 4ppt, and currently the Village Green Raw Water Supply is measuring between 2.2 and 3.8ppt. It is likely that the State will impose lower levels than the EPA, so it is important that the Town be prepared to address the PFAS situation. As such, there are two avenues that Public Works will explore as part of the PFAS Response Plan: Exploring alternative raw water sources, including routes to get that water to the existing treatment plant, as well as looking into PFAS stripping technologies for our existing water treatment plant. The first avenue is what this agreement will address, with Aldrich & Elliot proposing an agreement to for preliminary engineering to study a possible new raw water source, including routes to the plant. Mr. Shepard noted that there was an approved FY'23 Water Capital Project for \$95,000 for engineering and permitting for the Village Green Water Treatment Plant Capacity Expansion, but noted that in the light of PFAS concerns, it is no longer prudent to advance that project and is requesting the Board reallocate those funds towards PFAS Drinking Water Response Plan. The proposed Agreement with Aldrich & Elliot will be for \$36,900, and another assessment for PFAS stripping is anticipated to be brought before the Board at their next meeting. Mr. Shepard indicated it is important to get both assessments and compare costs and benefits when considering what avenue to go.

On a motion by Ms. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Board accepted the proposed Agreement with Aldrich & Elliot for the New Water Supply Study and approved reclassifying the FY'23 Village Green Capacity Expansion Study to the PFAS Drinking Water Response Plan and authorized the Town Manager to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Town.

Manager's Report

Staff provided the March financials, which Mr. Aumand noted he would like to revisit again at the next meeting when Town Manager Mr. Charles Safford is available.

Ms. Abigail Bourgeois noted that there were two upcoming Conservation Commission programs – on May 6th they will hold Green Up Day activities from 8am to 1pm. On May 8th they will be holding a Living with Bears presentation at the Stowe Library at 5:30pm.

Mr. Shepard also explained that the Town is facing challenges in managing its WWTP residuals disposal. In recent years the Town has utilized a company out of Quebec for residuals management of our wastewater treatment residuals. However new legislation from the Province of Quebec now restricts the importation of residuals into Quebec. Our Contractor has indicated that they believe they will be able to

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continue to receive Stowe's residuals through the end of the year, but are not confident they will be able to do so after that time. Mr. Shepard indicated that he is looking at other options, but they are very limited at the time.

On a motion by Ms. Courtney, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Board went into Executive Session at 6:15pm to discuss personnel.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:28pm.

There being no further business, Chair Hagerty adjourned the meeting at 9:29pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Abigail Bourgeois.