

Water Transition and Evaluation Committee

9/25/19 Meeting

Approved Minutes

Committee Member's Present: Scott Cyr, Dick Norman, Jim Taylor, David von Loesecke, and Joe Welch

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

The members of the committee each introduced themselves and described their backgrounds. Jim Taylor indicated that he had been appointed Chair jointly by the Board of Selectmen and the Moderator.

Jim Taylor reviewed the committee's charge and role, describing that the committee was established by Article 11 at the last Town Meeting. The purpose of the committee is to advise on all water system transition matters, as well as to conduct a study of the governance and operation of the water system. Additionally, the Board of Selectman's charge for the committee was reviewed, which includes the committee eventually performing an evaluation of the effectiveness of the governance and operations of the water system once it has been up and running for at least a year.

Taylor went on to mention that the Town has hired professional transition assistance provided by Environmental Partners Group who have extensive project management experience. Additionally, Jeff Nutting, the former Town Manager for Franklin, is serving as a consultant to Tom Mayo in assisting with many of the municipal level responsibilities in taking the water system over.

Mary Power of the Board of Selectmen reviewed the transition efforts that have been made to date. She indicated that Aquarion and Eversource have been very cooperative, and that weekly transition calls are held to ensure that the water system is running smoothly during this good husbandry period. Additionally she pointed out that capital improvements continue to be made, including a large water main replacement project on Beach Ave. in Hull. By the end of the year, over \$4mm in capital improvements will be been made throughout the system. She also announced that the RFP for the outsourced water operator had been issued that day, and that they were finalizing the details for the Water Superintendent Position posting which could take up to 6 months to fill.

Tom Mayo went on to walk the committee through the details of the RFP, the process and the various deadlines associated with the RFP. Mr. Mayo indicated that our committee would have

representation on the vendor selection committee. There were questions from the committee about the financial budget for the year and the mechanics associated with the collection of revenue during the good husbandry period, which Mr. Mayo answered but agreed that they are a work in progress.

Mark White of Environmental Partners introduced himself and provided an overview of his firm. They have spent the last month identifying tasks and timing to ensure that everything will be in place once the Town is ready to assume ownership of the system. One of the important tasks that our committee will undertake will be the review of the rules and regulations of the water system. This will be the focus of our next meeting. Additionally, our committee will be involved with reviewing the DEP required Business Plan that EPG is drafting.

The committee then discussed the assignment of roles and who would be interested in participating on either the RFP or Water Superintendent evaluation committees. The committee went on to discuss the next meeting which is planned for 10/7/19 at 7pm.

Mr. Kirk Shilts of the Water Supply Committee and Board of Health indicated that he would like the Transition Committee to determine how the Water Supply Committee may be useful during the process and through Town ownership. Additionally, he was enthusiastic about the prospects of having public input into the rules and regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Approved 5-0 10/7/19