

West Windsor Utility Advisory Committee (WWUAC) Meeting, Wednesday November 5th, 4:00-4:30 p.m., by teleconference. Draft Minutes.

Present: Committee members Glenn Seward, Mary Vitullo, John Bossen, Steve Hawco, Ralph Bailey, Jeff May. Joe Duncan, Aldrich & Elliott (Water Resource Engineers) and Clerk Connie May also present.

Call to order: Meeting called to order.

Changes or additions to agenda: None.

Public comment: No public present.

Discuss and consider funding sources for resort water-system evaluation.

Glenn's summary: Town in conversations with MFW for possible purchase of water system. Terms under discussion: sale of system for \$1; 85% of current outstanding receivables would go to MFW, and 15% would go to Town. Now seeking formal P&S agreement, so at present, no formal deal in place. Town asked engineering company Aldrich and Elliott to do initial water-system evaluation at estimated cost of \$8,700. Town does not have funds for this expense; in addition, taxpayers voted to acquire system on understanding that expenses would be paid by users. Additional expenses may be involved due to work done/professional time spent by P2 Environmental – the current system operators. Town seeking maximum of \$10,000 from sewer escrow to cover these projected expenses. Town lawyer Paul Giuliani comfortable with this possibility based on fact that only about 20 users are not common to both sewer and water, and provided that there is consent from WWUAC.

Discussion: There is over \$100,000 in sewer escrow account. POA conferred with its attorney on wording for a motion.

Motion: "To authorize the Selectboard to lend up to \$10,000 from sewer funds for the purpose of evaluation of the water system being acquired, provided: A. The loan is repaid within 24 months with interest when the water system is acquired; or B. The loan conforms with the Sewer Ordinance and any other local or state regulations." *Motion seconded.*

Discussion: Question raised about timing of a deal for purchase; would it make sense to wait until an agreement struck? Purjes will be back from China next week, after which Glenn plans to have conversation with him. Motion gives Glenn latitude to move quickly if need be, or to hold off for week to ten days. No problem with 24 month payback schedule; could always be covered by special assessment of \$30 to \$40/user. How long will it take engineering company to begin and complete services? Engineering company already did a site visit w/o charge, and can move forward with formal inspection(s) as soon as Town gives go-ahead. Preliminary report in 2 weeks; formal report 2 weeks after that. Sense of group was that engineering report should not commence until agreement with Purjes reached for purchase. Glenn offered to call another committee meeting after next conversation(s) with Purjes. If deal falls apart after that because engineering report turns up costly list of repairs/capital work, then this work will still need to be done to system, regardless of ownership. Question: should we include interest rate in motion? John Bossen thinks not, as long as interest equals interest money currently accruing. Question: Jeff Nelson commented that some facilities at Mt. Side not on map. Can we verify that all assets have been identified correctly for all water users? Glenn responded: Town interested in getting system cleaned up and placed in orderly operation, and will do what needs to be done to straighten such issues out.

Vote on motion: Passed by unanimous vote.

Other business: Question raised about "Water Budget and Rate Review" on page 5 of Engineering Proposal. Joe Duncan replied that company will be looking at current water company budget and rates to assess issues of affordability to operate as it currently stands – to understand if current rates put water system in black or red. Intent not to develop budget(s) going forward. Other questions about engineering proposal may arise after John Bossen discusses the language with Jeff Nelson.

Question: Shouldn't we verify that water system is in compliance with all current state and local regulations before Town purchases system? Shouldn't scope of engineering services include that system is in conformity with any known or anticipated state regulations? Answer: Such issues are typically covered in Water Supply Division, and engineering company will be in conversations with that division to cross-reference. Suggestion made that this be researched prior to finalization of the deal.

Motion made to adjourn. Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Connie May, Clerk