

Selectboard Meeting

October 24, 2019

Attended by: Chris Jarvis, Chair, Lindley Brainard, Mo Brigham, David Eddy, Paul Vallee, Therese Kirby, Tim Mills, Wayne Elliott, Michael Mainer, John Kresser, Eric Benson, Rosalie Benson, Sheldon Roesch, Linda Sampson and Geneva Gaiko.

At 6 pm, Chris Jarvis called the meeting to order. Mo Brigham moved to approve the agenda as printed, Paul Vallee seconded. So voted.

Wayne Elliott of Aldrich and Elliott, the engineering firm for the water system improvement project, presented an overview of the project as outlined in the mailer that was sent to every resident in Bethel.

- The Town of Bethel must be in compliance with the Sanitary Survey conducted by the State of Vermont's Drinking Water Division by December 2020. If we are not in compliance, the State has the ability to fine the Town of Bethel for these deficiencies.
- If the water bond does not pass on November 5, 2019, we will still be required to make the upgrades, but without the possibility of these financial incentives. If that happens, the Selectboard could decide to put some of the bond payment into the Town wide tax rate, which would affect all residents.
- The upgrade will include 2,500' of 8" upgraded water line on Main Street, 1,850' of 2" and 4" on Avon, Livery Stable, Cushing and Densmore.
- Upgrades will also happen to the Boulevard and Gaiko reservoirs, including upgrading the control system, and a second sampling station will be installed on Pleasant Street.
- All Town owned galvanized lines within the project scope will be taken out of service. Service lines to homeowners will be upgraded to the curb stop.
- The current loan package is a 40 year term for 0% interest. We are guaranteed the 50% disadvantaged subsidy. The other incentives we qualify for, but are first come first serve, are the additional 25% subsidy from the State and the 100% subsidy for all galvanized pipe removed from service. The subsidy for the galvanized will come off from the Town's loan amount.
- Wayne also stated this funding/forgiveness was not available 3 years ago.
- The Town has not included water meters in this project, as they are currently focusing on becoming compliant with the sanitary survey.
- At 60% complete with the engineering, it is too early to discuss a construction schedule.
- These system upgrades will last between 80 and 100 years.
- When homes and businesses are being connected to the new water line, they should only be without water for 1 to 4 hours. Each location will be notified in advance of the shut off and reconnection to the upgraded water line.
- When the bond vote passes, the engineers will finish the design to 90%, submit the permit to construct to the State, assist with the construction loan documents, put the project out to bid in February and finish up with the temporary construction easements.

Utility Director Tim Mills, provided the following additional information:

- Upgrades to the water lines on Graham Street and Highland Avenue will be financed via the Water Department's Annual Operating Budget.
- Church Street and Pleasant Street waterlines were upgraded in 1998 -1999.

At 6:55 pm Mo Brigham moved to adjourn, Lindley Brainard seconded. So voted.