

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING APPROVED**

2 June 7, 2023

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Dennis Place, Paul Lamberson, Todd Odit, Joy  
4 Dubin Grossman, Wayne Elliott, Jason Booth, Scott Shumway, James T, Roger Bergeron, Lynnette  
5 Claudon, Sheri Brody Hanlon, Matias Miguez, Travis Kingsbury

6 Attending remotely; Mike Loner, Jennifer Decker, Nathaniel Williams, Margaret McNurlan, Andrew Leise,  
7 Lori Sullivan, Doug Stewart, Daneil Jacobs, Natacha Liuzzi, Anne Sullivan

8 Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. via zoom

9 Agenda Additions or Deletions

10 none

11 Public Comment

12 Jennifer D commented on the discussion on FPF about the Silver St intersection. She feels 30 mph speed  
13 is too fast and would like it reduced to 25 and more visible signs. Also asked for consideration of a traffic  
14 light / pedestrian bridge / or speed bumps. Merrily noted that Rt 116 is owned by the State. We have  
15 asked for lowered speed limits and for signs.

16 Approve Minutes of 5/17

17 Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 5/17 as amended. Seconded by Paul and approved with 5 yes  
18 votes.

19 Selectboard Forum

20 Paul said the committee is working on looking at other Town Charters that exist.

21 Consideration of WWTF Upgrade Bids and General Project Update and Discussion

22 Jason B talked about some additional funding that was available. This still does not get the Town the  
23 funding needed and they are continuing to work with the State for possible future funding.

24 Merrily asked about a timeline. Wayne said if the Town chooses not to proceed at this point the funding  
25 does not go away. The project is called a continuing project and so is at the top of the list.

26 Wayne said the second part is the regulatory side. The draft discharge permit has some compliance  
27 dates, there is a public hearing on that next Monday.

28 Todd said the recommendation is to reject all the bids. Jason said the State and all contractors would be  
29 notified that bids are rejected. The next steps would be discussion of options and what could be done  
30 differently, anything different would need State approval.

31 Dennis asked why the engineering estimate was so much lower. Jason explained about the maximum  
32 bonding amount the Town could get and the additional money from the State. Dennis asked if the Town  
33 decides to make changes how it will affect the engineering costs. Wayne said it would depend on the  
34 changes.

35 Maggie moved to convene as the Board of Water and Wastewater Commissioners. Seconded by Merrily  
36 and approved with 5 yes votes.

37 Jennifer asked if we are looking at sponsoring communities for one of the grants, we should look to  
38 those who share the high school. She asked if the Public Hearing to be held on Monday has been  
39 advertised and what the recent results of effluent testing was. Todd said he will send that information to  
40 Jennifer.

41 Wayne said the Public Hearing is part of the issuing of the amended discharge permit and has been  
42 publicly warned. The hearing is specific to the draft discharge permit.

43 Maggie asked about a timeline to come up with alternatives if we reject these bids. Wayne said that will  
44 need to be discussed over the next week or two. October of 2026 is the date the State expects the new  
45 facility to be operational.

46 Paul moved to reject the bids that have been submitted for the wastewater treatment facility. Seconded  
47 by Merrily.

48 Margaret said when we voted on the bond, she understood that about half of that would not be  
49 borrowed as we would be getting grants from the State. Todd said the grants are subtracted from the  
50 total project cost of what we will have to borrow, at this point what we have to borrow is higher than  
51 originally anticipated.

52 Matias, from Kingsbury one of the bidding companies, said they did a level one estimate which is very  
53 accurate. He said there could be a lot of savings in the materials. He asked if it is an option to discuss  
54 lowering the price of the facility instead of increasing the budget for the financing needed for the  
55 project. Jason explained the bid would have to be accepted before there can be discussion on  
56 negotiating a change order. He said Matias is correct that there could be savings in either changing  
57 materials or equipment but with this project a concern is looking at savings is going to require  
58 consideration and approval by the State and there are very specific requirements for the project.

59 Jennifer asked the Board to delay the decision till after the public comment. Todd said the public hearing  
60 and comment has nothing to do with this decision.

61 Motion voted and approved with 5 yes votes.

#### 62 Review Stand-Alone Lyman Meadow and Lyman Park Water Budget and Rate

63 Merrily explained there was a request to adjust the rates for Lyman Meadow residents to pay a lower  
64 rate than other users on the water system as they do not have the advantage of the filtering system or  
65 fluoridation.

66 Todd investigated the cost to supply water to Lyman Meadow. The 89 customers paid \$43,142 in water  
67 fees, expenses for Lyman Meadow were \$69,150. The revenue is not covering expenses for the system.

68 Maggie said it would be interesting to find out the cost to the Town to add fluoridation to the system.

69 Jennifer asked what the full value of the well is and what it would cost to buy the well from the Town.  
70 Expenses for water softeners should be taken into consideration. She asked how much administration  
71 time is spent on Lyman Meadows. If LM residents are to pay the same rate, she would want to see a

water filtration system for their water. She is not in favor of fluoridation. Todd said the Town would sell the well for the sum of \$1.00.

Scott said he believes fluoridation can easily be done. He discussed the difference between filtration and the system the Town has which includes the water softening.

Merrily agreed with Jennifer that it would be good for the residents of LM to get together and discuss this.

Shari said she appreciates the work Todd did and asked if there could be more detail on the figures. Included are four Town staff members and she does not know what percentage of their salary and benefits is included as it seems high for a simple system.

#### Discussion of Changing Water and Wastewater Design Flows

The Town has relied on the State rules for design flows for water and wastewater. There have been requests by developers to lower the gpd to reflect actual flows. We would need to amend the ordinance to change the flows.

Alex Weinhagen came up with some suggested residential design flow numbers based on allocation.

Dennis asked who pays the fee? If the builder is paying the allocation fee will the cost of house be reduced when sold or will the builder benefit. Dennis compared the allocation cost with the cost to drill a well.

Maggie said she is in favor and feels it makes sense.

Merrily asked about the suggested amounts being lower than Williston. Todd said it was based on the research Alex did. Merrily added she thinks it is a good idea to make it more realistic.

Paul said he understands this will bring in less money to the Town but we might make it up with volume by bringing on more users. Todd said that is correct. Paul further asked about doing this retroactive. Todd said if the ordinance is amended it would apply to anything new. The benefit to seeing if Ben and Brett would be willing to adjust what was given to them is it frees up water allocation.

Dennis commented that we have been told the school system is at max which does not allow for more development.

#### Discuss Separation of Water and Wastewater Funds

The water and sewer share a fund balance. With the growth of the wastewater system and the fact it will carry a large debt the Board is investigation separating the two.

This does not need approval by the Board. Todd was advising them this practice will begin with the new fiscal year.

#### Discuss Elimination of Free 500 cf Each Quarter in Water Rate Setting

Merrily noted as Todd indicated everyone pays the base rate, if you use less you still pay for the 500 cf and if you use more your are charged at the second tier rate. The suggestion is to have users pay for

107 what the actual usage is. There would still be a flat rate. There is no vote needed just agreement by the  
108 Board. Todd will use this method when setting the rates and bring it back to the Board.

109 Jennifer asked for what percentage of the Town would costs go up. Todd said he has not set the rates so  
110 does not have that information now.

111 Merrily moved to adjourn as the Board of Water and Wastewater Commissioners. Seconded by Maggie  
112 and approved with 5 yes votes.

113 Town Manager Report

114 CGR will be in Town next week and will meet with the focus groups, on call firefighters and police  
115 officers.

116 The person training in the water and wastewater department has left for another position.

117 They have had no responses to the opening in the Highway Department.

118 Approve Warrants and Payroll

119 Merrily moved to approve the warrants signed by herself and Maggie, including payroll, as submitted by  
120 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Paul and approved with 5 yes votes.

121 Adjourn

122 Merrily moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Paul and approved with 5 yes votes.

123 Respectfully submitted,

124 Val Spadaccini, clerk of the Board