

**Merger Committee Regular Meeting
(Rockingham Selectboard & Bellows Falls Village Trustees)**

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Minutes

Present: Nancy McAuliffe, Evelyn Weeks, Thomas MacPhee, Peter Golec, Sanford Martin, Colin James, Stefan Golec

Absent: Ann DiBernardo, Joshua Hearne, Susan Hammond

Also Present: Kristi Morris, Facilitator; Willis Stearns, II, Municipal Manager; Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk; Jim McAuliffe, Deborah Wright, Joe Brissette

Press: Joey Powers & Rick Anderson, FACT8; Dominic Poli, Brattleboro Reformer

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Committee Facilitator Kristi Morris. Morris briefly reviewed the Committee's Rules of Procedure, particularly the public participation section, motions and majority of membership.

Additions to the Agenda for Routine Administrative Matters and/or Pressing Matters that will require ratification at a future meeting: None

Approve Minutes of May 27, 2015: *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2015 as printed. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (3 minutes per person):

- Joe Brissette noted that the rules adopted by the Committee state that the agenda for the next meeting will be set at the prior meetings. However, Brissette noted that the February 24 agenda included an item that was not discussed at the January meeting. Both Morris and Stearns explained what had occurred and why this discussion had taken place.

- Deborah Wright asked if the Merger Committee had authorized the Manager's Survey and Stearns stated they had not. Wright asked if the Merger Committee reviewed and accepted the questions that were on the survey. Stearns stated the survey was distributed to the Selectboard and Trustees at individual Board meetings but there was no input from the Boards or the public. Wright asked if the Merger Committee had received the results of the survey. Stearns stated that it has not. Wright asked when the public would be given the opportunity to see the results of the survey. Stearns stated that these would be discussed during review of the merger process under Chapter Ten. Wright asked if the remaining area of Rockingham not yet surveyed would be included. Stearns stated that he is attempting to come up with a method to do so.

Agenda:

1. Continue with Review of Draft Document – 2 hour time limit

- a) Chapter Nine – Water and Wastewater Utilities – Revised Section: Morris noted that Chapter 9 has been revised to include the language from the current Bellows Falls Village Corporation Charter for Water & Wastewater.

9.1 – General: Morris read 9.1 General in its entirety. *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to accept 9.1 as read. Motion was seconded by Sanford Martin.* Stearns stated that Water Commissioners has been brought up several times and this will be noted under 9.1 for future review. *Motion passed unanimously.*

9.2.1 – Morris read 9.2.1 in its entirety. It was noted that the word corporation should be changed to Town throughout. *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve 9.2.1 as read with the change in the word “corporation” to “Town”. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.2.2 Water Rates: Morris read 9.2.2 in its entirety. *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to accept 9.2.2 as read. Motion was seconded by Nancy McAuliffe.* MacPhee asked about the last sentence which states that the Selectboard may order water rents paid in advance, and wonders if this ever occurs. Stefan Golec thought it may be used if a large company were to use an excessive amount of water then this would allow the Board to have this rent paid in advance. Wright noted that this does not seem to address the Village’s existing debt. Stearns stated that this is addressed in Chapter Ten. *Morris called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.2.3 Application of Water Management: Morris read 9.2.3 in its entirety. *Evelyn Weeks made the motion to approve section 9.2.3 as read. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec.* Peter Golec noted that there is no reference to the logging revenue or cell tower revenue. Stearns also noted that the language that states “The rents and receipts” should be changed to “All revenues” and the word “bonds” to “debts”. Bennett read section 9.2.3 with these changes. *MacPhee withdrew his original motion and McAullife withdrew her second. Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve section 9.2.3 as amended. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.2.4 Minard’s Pond: Morris read 9.2.4 in its entirety. Stearns noted that the first two paragraphs are basically the same as section 9.2.1. It was the consensus of the Committee to eliminate paragraph 1 and 2 of 9.2.4. Wright noted that the 5th line in the paragraph should have the wording “or cutting wood” following the sentence ending “or ATV riding.” The Committee then discussed whether or not to put a dollar figure for fines in the Charter. After discussion it was decided to eliminate the dollar amounts and include the fine amounts in the Water Department Ordinance. *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve section 9.2.4 as amended. Motion was seconded by Colin James. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.3.1 Morris read 9.3 in its entirety. Stearns noted that the word corporate should be eliminated. *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve 9.3.1 as amended. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.3.2 Morris read 9.3.2 in its entirety. Stearns stated that he would like to see the heading “Wastewater Rates” on this section to be consistent with 9.2.2 Water Rates. Stearns also suggested that the word “bonds” be changed to “debts”. *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to approve 9.3.2 and entitle this “Wastewater Rates” and change the word bonds to debts. Motion was seconded by Sanford Martin. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.3.3 Application of Wastewater Management: Morris read 9.3.3 in its entirety. *Peter Golec made the motion to approve section 9.3.3 Application of Wastewater Management as read. Motion was seconded by Nancy McAuliffe.* Stearns suggested that the same changes be made in this section as in section 9.2.3 under the Water Management. *Peter Golec withdrew his motion and Nancy McAuliffe withdrew her second. Sanford Martin made the motion to approve section 9.3.3 Application of Wastewater Management as amended. Motion was seconded by Nancy McAuliffe. Motion passed unanimously.*

9.3.4 Drains and Sewers: Morris read section 9.3.4 in its entirety. *Colin James made the motion to approve section 9.3.4 Drains and Sewers as read. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Set Agenda Items for July 28, 2015: *Thomas MacPhee made the motion that the next agenda include Chapter Ten – Merger – 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 & 10.4 time allowing. Motion was seconded by Sanford Martin. Motion passed unanimously.*

Other Business: None

Adjourn: *Thomas MacPhee made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Motion was seconded by Peter Golec. Motion passed unanimously.*

Attest: _____
Kerry Bennett, Recording Clerk