

Franconia Water Department Work Session

Tuesday November 10, 2020

5PM – Town Hall

In Attendance: Commissioners – Dan Walker & Kevin Johnson; FWD Office Administrator – Sandy Kellogg.

Others in attendance included Pete Hilton, LRW and Rick Gaudette, Franconia Fire Chief

Meeting opened at 5pm by Dan and is seconded by Kevin.

The purpose of the work session is to discuss the water systems fire hydrants so that a decision can be made on whether to continue to maintain them or to begin decommissioning them in preparation of the 2021 budget. If time allows, the commissioners will also discuss the 2020 Mittersill Project and look ahead to work for completion in Mittersill in 2021.

Dan reviewed the situation with the fire hydrants:

- Hydrants not functional for their intended purpose. The hydrants are a gravity system and the pressure is not adequate for the Fire Departments use.
- Question is if the Department moves to decommission the hydrants what will be the cost? It is likely that this will be a multi-year project as the cost will need to be spread out.
- Additional concern is will water customers have an increase in their insurance premiums if the hydrants are decommissioned.

Kevin suggests that a public session be called for input so that customers can learn the facts of the situation, express their concerns, and have a clear understanding prior to the Commissioners making a final decision.

Pete from LRW confirmed that currently all hydrants are maintained annually and are working with the exception of those that are bagged. He has estimated that the cost to decommission the hydrants will range from \$700 - \$2,000 per hydrant depending on location, age, and accessibility. It will be beneficial for some of the hydrants to remain and be used for blow-off. Also when decommissioning a newer hydrant, that newer hydrant could then be used to replace an older one that is remaining.

Chief Gaudette shared that the new dry hydrant to be installed with the construction of the new FSC Performance Center that will draw from the pond will be a great asset in Mittersill and the Fire Department will use that for fighting fire in Mittersill. He confirmed that it is the fire departments current procedure NOT to utilize the existing fire hydrants in Franconia or Mittersill as the pressure is insufficient for their needs. Chief Gaudette agreed to provide written documentation regarding their position on the fire hydrants which he said would be forthcoming after consulting counsel to address any possible liability issues.

A motion was made by Kevin, seconded by Dan and unanimously approved

To schedule a public meeting for input and to add \$10,000 to the FWD 2021 budget in the event a decision to begin the decommissioning process is made in 2021. Hydrants to be prioritized would be those located near the Best Western, Peabody & Smith, and Joel Peabody's.

It was noted that the hydrant at the Alpine Clinic is a private hydrant.

A discussion of work done and needing to be done at Mittersill began. Kevin brought a large computer screen and was able to display maps of Mittersill to aid in understanding and discussion.

2020 Mittersill Project – Pete reviewed the work that LRW had been able to complete ahead of the unanticipated Town paving project. Most of what was need was completed though the back section along Hubertus Ring will still need work. This is the section with the ledge, which will be difficult and more expensive when the time comes.

2021 Mittersill Projects, anticipated needing completion ahead of Town paving

1. Section from well to meter pit along beginning of Mittersill Rd by old fire station
2. Mittersill Inn – this project NEEDS to be completed. Pete has concerns that the current situation at the Inn is an accident waiting to happen. The best scenario is that this project is done in conjunction with the Inn and the Inn’s need for new lines. It is very likely that a temporary water supply will be needed while this project is underway and there are also many unknowns that may complicate this work.

One scenario would be to have LRW install a valve by the booster tank

- If all went well this could be a simple remedy
- If all did not go well then we would need to stop and reevaluate. It is likely that we would then need to dig up the new pavement in front of the Inn to install a valve at that location.

3a. Mittersill Rd to Woodchuck Trail – Pete to put together estimated pricing for this project.

3b. Deer Pass Run – Pete to put together an estimated price for this project.

Dan will consult with Kim Cowles in an attempt to better coordinate the FWD scheduled water line replacement with Franconia Public Work's paving schedule at Mittersill so as to avoid having to dig up and accrue the cost of replacement of newly installed pavement.

A final note of discussion was the new line and connection for the FSC project at Mittersill. This was completed today. Dan was there to inspect the work. Pete had requested that Thad take pictures. Dan confirmed that he had; Sandy will contact Thad to have them sent.

Work session adjourned at 6:30pm.

FRANCONIA WATER DEPARTMENT

Commissioners Work Session – Franconia Town Hall

PUBLIC SIGN IN SHEET

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2020

MEETING TIME: 5:00pm

(Please print)

PETER Hilton LRW

RICK GAUDETTE FIRE DEPT.