

SOUTH ALBURGH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Present: Prudential Committee Members John FitzGerald, Alton Bruso, Tony Speranza
Treasurer Richard Ernst
Admin. Assistant Danielle James Choiniere

Guests: Tom Jacobsen, Kathy Rochedieu

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair John FitzGerald.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

John FitzGerald wanted to make sure the village deposit was under the financial headline.

MINUTES

Alton Bruso motioned to approve 3/20 minutes with clarification on QuickBooks costs, Alton Bruso seconded, all in favor. So approved.

VISITOR INPUT

None at this section of the meeting.

TREASURER'S WARRANT & REPORT

Alton Bruso motioned to approve the treasurer's report as written. John FitzGerald seconded, all in favor so approved.

\$2,913.66 to Alburgh Village for a 2021 deposit Danielle misapplied to SAFD2, \$50 to Endyne, \$540 to Town of Alburgh for recording fees, \$360.66 for admin. assistant, \$2,040.56 to ACS Aviation for easement work, \$839.00 to Monaghan Safar Ducham for attorney fees. John FitzGerald motioned to pay these bills. Tony Speranza seconded, all in favor. So approved.

The board asked about the status of grant reimbursement requests which haven't been received in many months.

PHASE II UPDATES

Raleigh Palmer remarked at the last meeting on dead-end lines and how creating a loop parallel to the original pipeline would be beneficial. Tony Speranza relayed the comment and suggestions to engineers. While they didn't think it was cost-effective, they appreciated the input.

Tony had a handout of easements still getting worked out. There were tree concerns around Goose Point Campground an arborist from DuBois and King assessed. Tom Jacobsen commented about the fairness of all people with tree issues. Tony Speranza answered the board/project will work with people as much as possible with tree concerns outside of highway right of ways and they make their concerns known to the board. Tony Speranza motioned to negotiate easements for Goose Point Campground with a \$3,000 maximum. John FitzGerald seconded, all in favor. So approved.

Tony Speranza motioned to update the water ordinance to include, pending legal review,:

In accordance with Vermont State Law & Statutes governing the construction & operation of public water systems (Title 24, section 3301) SAFD2 will issue a special assessment on any parcel of land to which the property owner has denied the requested permanent and/or temporary easement for Phase 2 construction. SAFD2 shall maintain a list of "denied Phase 2 easements" that will contain all properties in which the owners have refused to cooperate in closing said easements by **June 21, 2023**. This "special assessment" is permanent and may NOT be eliminated or reduced by any future SAFD2 action or ordinances. This "special assessment" shall be recorded in Alburgh Town records and be considered a "lien" which must be paid in full

by current property owners to SAFD2, prior to the sale of any parcel of land on SAFD2 "special assessment" list.

In consideration of extra and additional costs (1) incurred by SAFD2 to relocate Phase 2 main water service line into actual town or state road ROW, any customer or property owner refusing to authorize the requested easement agreement, in consideration of just compensation and as described in D&K easement drawings, shall be charged an additional \$5,000.00 at time of application for water service. In addition, said Customers shall not be entitled to any of the privileges afforded by "early sign-up". This includes the \$1,000.00 tap fee discount" or having project general contractor locate Customer Service line to opposite side of roadways (bore under the road).

These additional costs incurred by SAFD2 Phase construction include but are not limited to:

1. engineering services to redesign & document changes
2. additional excavation and material requirements
3. repair and replacement of culverts & other drainage features
4. relocation of utilities and/or other public services
5. permitting other costs associated with connecting to a water supply line in Vermont State ROW
6. legal or administrative costs
7. Project cost increases to delays, including inflation

Tom Jacobsen asked what the difference was between paying people for easements and fining them? Tony Speranza said anyone not returning calls or working with the committee. John FitzGerald seconded the motion. Alton Brusio voted no against the motion, Tony Speranza and John FitzGerald voted yes. Motion passed pending legal review.

WATER OR OPERATIONS ISSUES/ PHASE III/ CORRESPONDANCE/ MISC

Drone Company: Brian Bessette emailed the board about a New Jersey company utilizing drones with ground penetrating radar. This technology can, among other things, help determine things like ledge and other qualities not visible without the expense of digging or bulkier methods. The board was intrigued and will pass along the contact to engineers.

Ag Rate: A Phase One user asked about a water rate for agricultural uses. The board did not have a different rate schedule at this time but could change in the future.

Allocation: A new Phase One request was received with \$1,000 payment for West Shore Road. The board approved the allocation request. Connection fee and other stipulations to be determined.

ADJOURN

John FitzGerald motioned to adjourn at 9:02 PM. Alton Brusio seconded, all in favor. So adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere

These minutes are draft only, not slated for approval until the next board meeting in May.