

SOUTH ALBURGH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Present: Prudential Committee Members John Fitzgerald, Alton Brusco, Tony Speranza
Admin. Assistant Danielle James Choiniere

Guests: Tom Jacobsen via phone, Town Selectboard Member Elliot Knight

Meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chair John Fitzgerald.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Elliot Knight had something new to share on Phase III.

MINUTES

Alton Brusco motioned to approve last month's minutes, Tony Speranza seconded, all in favor. So approved.

VISITOR INPUT

Charles Kelly and Brian Bessette did not attend but had submitted a Position Statement in advance to the board (see attached). Tony Speranza motioned to look into answering the statements posed with attorney help to make sure board is compliant with Vermont statutes. Alton seconded, all in favor. So voted.

TREASURER'S WARRANT & REPORT

Treasurer Ernst was absent but the board did acknowledge loan reimbursement requests needed amending which DuBois & King engineers were working on.

PHASE II UPDATES

Board is awaiting engineer Exhibits for the 100 +/- easements needed. Tony Speranza motioned to allocate funds to hire an administrator to handle the easements. John Fitzgerald seconded, all in favor. So approved. Charles Mackin's name came up, and people at the meeting agreed they can try and handle some easements that are for neighbors. Tom Jacobsen recommended to talk to people in groups. Tony thought going door to door would be another method.

Phase II files- Tony Speranza drafted some working documents on connecting, service providers, and potential ordinance updates. The board will work more closely on them next meeting.

WATER OR OPERATIONS ISSUES/ CORRESPONDANCE/ MISC

Elliot Knight found a grant possibility from the Northern Border Regional Commission regarding Phase III and asked the board's approval to send. Its due date was April 22nd. John Fitzgerald motioned to apply and would sign the letter if required. Tony Speranza seconded, all in favor. So approved. He was thanked for his help.

Danielle James Choiniere, in contact with Misty Sinsigalli of Rural Development, confirmed there is also a SEARCH grant available to apply for in regard to a Phase III. The district qualified and received one some years prior for Phase II. Danielle currently awaiting further guidance from Misty regarding applying and hopes to before the May meeting.

ADJOURN

John Fitzgerald motioned to adjourn at 8:24 PM. Alton Brusco 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.

POSITION STATEMENT OF THE RESIDENTS FROM SOUTHWEST OF THE FIRE DISTRICT

- The SAFD2 did not follow their Bylaws or open meeting laws. We have proof of this.
- The SW of the District was in Phase 2 since 2011. We have proof of this.
- The SAFD2 five year Long Range Plan expired in 2019. It has not been updated nor does it address a comprehensive plan for all residents of the South Alburgh Fire District regardless of phase. We have proof of this.
- As a result of missteps by the SAFD2, residents in the SW were not properly informed. This information is critical for each individual's future water source planning and self-equipment investment both near term and long range.
- The SAFD#2 Committee states they are not grant proposal writers and we were told at the SAFD2 meeting on Feb. 22, 2022 that the Southwest should seek private funding.
- The window of opportunity for additional grant money will pass if no action is taken.
- In light of current additional grant money the scope of work for Phase 2 needs expansion through 2026.
- Help for grant applications needs to come from the Alburgh Planning Commission with support of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.
- The Select Board has the authority to direct the SAFD#2 Committee to correct these missteps. The Fire District Committee does not have non-report authority when they are entrusted with \$6.9 million dollars of tax payer bond funding.