

SOUTH ALBURGH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:30 PM

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

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Chair John Fitzgerald.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Adding update on the position statement reply from Route 129 residents, part of agenda item 7: Operations Issues/Phase III/ Correspondence. Board also shuffled the order of some discussion topics.

MINUTES

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

VISITOR INPUT

Charles Mackin, though he could not be the administrator as mentioned in April's minutes, offered assistance in helping gather easements. Elliot Knight had an update on the grant he applied for.

PHASE II UPDATES

-Loan Amendment Application: John Fitzgerald motioned to approve and sign the amendment application for funding for \$139,832. Tony Speranza seconded, all in favor. So voted.

-Phase II Schedule: Need easements by 9/1/22 for fall bidding.

-ROW Easement List: 80 easements are needed, some owned by the same owners. Tony drafted and presented a job description for the admin he hopes can help with easement gathering. He also was trying to ask teachers who may want a summer job. Alton Bruso asked about what price to tell people and Tony Speranza said he wanted to see Phase I and II rates the same. Board members and public said they would help gather some easements from neighbors or those they knew.

-Easement Admin: Tony Speranza motioned to accept job description for the easement administrator with minor adjustments, if required. John Fitzgerald seconded, all in favor. So voted.

-ROW Exhibits: DuBois & King made exhibits to help gather easements. Tony Speranza can help make them into individual maps to record with easements in town land records.

-ROW Completion: Need done by 9/1/22. The board was shooting for 8/1/22 or before. Tom Jacobsen mentioned though only 2 were needed for Point of Tongue, the road was owned by the Homeowner's Association and their board should be approached. The board was going to have a ROW working session on 6/6 at 6:30 PM.

WATER OR OPERATIONS ISSUES/ CORRESPONDANCE/ MISC

Position Statement Response: John Fitzgerald thoroughly read the position statement and Vermont's Open Meeting Law rules. To the best of his knowledge the district board did not knowingly flout any of them. At 8:34 PM Tony Speranza motioned to enter executive session per public confidential Open Meeting guidelines on this subtopic. Alton Bruso seconded the motion, all in favor. Elliot Knight, Tom Jacobsen, and Charles Mackin voluntarily left. Danielle James Choiniere was alright to stay. Alton Bruso motioned to exit executive session at 8:50 PM. Tony Speranza seconded. Motion carried. No motions were made in executive session.

-Phase III Grant Updates: Elliot Knight had, with the board's blessing, applied for a letter of interest in a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission in April. The commission returned a response to him they were not inviting SAFD2 to apply for the grant for a few reasons: it wasn't going to create jobs, businesses, or other economic benefits, there was no 424 budget information, and it would help to be on a regional development contact list. "Based on the nature of your application, it was deemed to not be as competitive as other proposals and therefore was not selected by the State to move forward to the application phase." But the board could flesh out the application and could apply again when the time came.

Meeting members discussed the Dunes State Park connect to Phase II from the south by Sand Beach Road, then a waterline could travel down Coon Point Road and connect to Route 129 and head north. This would circumvent a large stretch of wetlands and loop the water lines.

Members were not deterred and were looking into a SEARCH grant with Rural Development for Phase III and are sleuthing for the application to apply as we speak!

-A water allocation for the Terrapin Lane development was approved.

-Annual Meeting Date: TBD. Need to meeting with Alburgh Village first.

TREASURER'S WARRANT & REPORT

Alton Bruso motioned to approve the treasurer's report as written. Tony Speranza seconded, all in favor. So approved. Monthly \$360.66 to Admin Assistant, \$25 for Endyne water testing, \$2,593.47 to Alburgh Village for water, \$600 for easement attorney work, Q2 insurance to VLCT for \$342.50. John Fitzgerald motioned to pay all bills after investigating the attorney bill. Tony Speranza seconded, all in favor. So approved. There was a question on an overdue engineering bill John would look into.

ADJOURN

John Fitzgerald motioned to adjourn at 9:30 PM. Tony Speranza 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 June.