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4345 West Shore Road  
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South Alburgh Fire District 2

I am one of the residents that have Municipal water from Phase one. I had so many problems before South Alburgh brought water to us. Soon after we moved in we found out that we had all kinds of filters in the other unit as we are a 2 Unit Townhouse that the water enters our neighbor and splits after its filtered. We had charcoal filter failure over and over and found out that we had Methane in our water and it would destroy our Charcoal filter. We also had high level of Sulfur. Sulfur destroyed so much over time. We had to replace all our toilets, electrical outlets, Furnace, Hot water Tank, faucets and some of our plumbing. What was the fix? We had to put in the garage a 300-gallon tank to let the Methane vent (very dangerous) along with a chlorine pellet dropper into the well so the chlorine could attach itself to the Sulfur and be caught in the back-washing filter. Did it work? Better than what we started with, but over time it still broke down the system over and over. We spent thousands of dollars and was always having to fix our water system.

Now... great water and yes, we now drink it. Constant pressure and care free. I gladly pay my bill and would pay that before TV and Cell.

Our other residents need this water system for the whole SAFD#2  
Without help from a program that will help bring funds to the district our future users will not be able to afford this essential commodity.

I have volunteered for 8 years on the board to make this water system for real and phase one has been a blessing for our users.

Most of the complaints come from our community is why don't we have Municipal water yet!  
We are asking for grant money that will allow Municipal water to come to all In South Alburgh.

Thanks,  
John FitzGerald  
Chairman  
South Alburgh Fire District 2

From: Tony Speranza (802) 598-7160  
50 South Cove Road  
Burlington VT 05401  
Member, South Alburgh Fire District # 2 Board of Directors

Subject: Water & economic situation in Alburgh, Vermont.

We have been hearing about town water coming down our road since we built our home (92 Poor Farm Road, Alburgh VT 05440) about 30 years ago. Efforts are made with the best of intentions. Money is spent & unfortunately people come & go. As a BOD Member I've spent a lot of time talking to people in South Alburgh and summarized some comments at bottom.

People need clean, safe water. Alburgh is NOT a wealthy town. With no major employer in town, most people drive a long way to earn a living (expensive). As a Member of SAFD#2 I know we are all dedicated getting the most people town water at an affordable price.

I really like the Phase 2 redesign proposal by the D & K Team. It is affordable and spans the entire town. It is the best possible solution but will still will not serve all residents. Also, some people will not be able to afford to "hook up". It is my hope is we will attain the maximum Federal grant (75%) providing a "reasonable cost" (below \$100/month), allowing most people to hook-up and positioning SAFD#2 to consider a Phase 3 expansion, serving more residents.

Comments (by friends & neighbors):

- I wouldn't give that water (from lake) to my dog (gets bottled water only)
- I could NOT even take a shower after surgery – can't risk an infection (lake water)
- I'd love to hook-up but I know I can't afford it
- I used to treat water (lake) with Chlorine, I can't get down the stairs so drink it "straight"
- My neighbor had to call the Fire Department – he hooked up a new well & had so much methane gas, he thought it was going to "blow up" (Point of the Tongue Road)
- Our shallow well ran out this past summer (many people said this)
- Lake water is bad but a deep well in Alburgh is worse, smells, can't drink it...
- Water from lake can be just gross & blue-green algae is scary
- Must be affordable, can't pay hundreds of dollars just for water
- I just spent thousands of dollars putting in a new system, but it will fail sometime?
- We had to replace the entire system, cost more than \$12,000 & water bad
- Could not get mortgage w/o a deep well, drilling was waste of money, still use lake water
- I'm afraid the Kids will have friends over & someone will drink water & get sick
- We have zebra mussels, killed my pump & will probably wreck our plumbing in house?
- House still stinks (Sulphur) after spending thousands of dollars on treatment
- We have 3 stage water treatment – still very bad
- Love town water but I can't afford it after paying my taxes (\$5,500), fixed income
- Had to put expensive sand filter out in the lake – thousands of dollars
- Water from lake or well (deep) – it all STINKS. Shallow wells run dry & is it safe?
- My neighbor can lite his kitchen water on FIRE (Poor Farm Road)
- Water stinks like Sulphur, even after all the money spent on treatment

Thanks...Tony (voting member of South Alburgh Fire District # 2 Board of Directors)

## WATER SYSTEM HISTORY AND NEED FOR MUNICIPAL WATER

In 2004 when we started building our house in Alburgh, Vermont on Wagner Pt Rd, we were told by SAFD2 that municipal water would soon be available (within a year or two) so we decided to set up a temporary water system. We discussed this with neighbors, and were told that getting water from the lake could be a problem (freezing water line in winter, algae blooms in the summer that could give us green, undrinkable water, etc.). The majority of neighbors had wells and they told us that that was not always satisfactory either (well water contained hydrogen sulfide and methane, which required considerable and costly treatment to make it usable). For the short time we expected to need our own water source we chose the lake water system. We put the pump in the lake about 150 feet from shore, ran the water line back to the basement, and treated the incoming water with a large sand filter tank, a 5 micron paper filter tube, and then purified it with a UV light source. We put a 100 foot long heating cable inside the water line (100 feet just reaches the water line when the lake is at 95.0 feet deep) to try to protect the line from freezing in the winter. We also cover the exposed water line with bales of hay to further protect it from freezing.

All of this preparation has not led to a problem free system.

In 2010 our water pump was destroyed by filling up with zebra mussels. We had to replace the pump (we paid \$1000 for a new pump and installation), and had a zebra mussel filter installed to protect the pump (\$1200 for the filter, and \$425 per year (\$3400 total to now) thereafter to service the filter).

In 2011 when the lake reached record heights (103.2 feet) we continued drinking our water until my wife got very ill with gastro-intestinal problems and ended up spending 3 days in the hospital. We subsequently found that our water, even after treatment, had high levels of total coliform (up to greater than 200 MPN, most probable number) and e-coli (up to 60 MPN), which likely was the cause of my wife's health problem. For the next half year we boiled all water used for consumption. After bleaching our water treatment system and all the water pipes, replacing the UV lamp, adding the 5 micron paper filter tube, cleaning the quartz tube inside the UV unit, recharging the sand filter with new sand, etc. we finally got our water analysis back down to satisfactory levels of 0 MPN total coliform and 0 MPN e-coli.

In 2013 we had a water line break (\$390 to repair)

In Jan. 2016 we had a pump failure and water line break under the frozen lake (\$5400 to pay for four days of cutting ice and diving in frigid water and a new pump). In Feb 2016 we had another line break under the ice (\$1900 to repair)

In the summer of 2016 to help break our dependence on our lake water system we installed a 1000 gallon water tank in the garage and had it plumbed into our existing system. (\$2000 for the tank and installation). This got us through several short interruptions in our lake water system and through a 133 day outage when again we had a line break under the ice, which we

didn't have repaired until the ice melted.. During these times we bought our water from the Alburgh Village water plant and the Alburgh Fire Dept delivered the water to fill our tank 20 times.

Needless to say, we are very anxious to have municipal water piped directly to our house, both for health reasons and for consistent availability of clean water, which should be every citizen's right. It also makes sense financially considering that over the 13 years that we have lived in our house we have spend \$14,000 for maintenance, \$2000 for the backup water tank, and operating expenses for buying new UV light bulbs every year (\$80 each for \$1000 total) and the electricity to run the water pump (cost unknown).

Richard Ernst  
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Note: Richard Ernst is the Treasury of South Alburg Fire District # 2.