

SOUTH ALBURGH FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 21, 2018 at 6:30 PM
Alburgh Municipal Conference Room

Present: Prudential Committee Members John Fitzgerald, Alton Bruso, Tony Speranza
Treasurer Richard Ernst
Admin. Assistant Danielle James Choiniere
Guests Charles Goodling, Paul Hansen, and Jeremy Rathbun

Meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM by Chair John Fitzgerald.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS None, aside from shuffling the engineers before the approval of meeting minutes.

VISITOR INPUT

Two engineers from DuBois & King presented a map and handout of work they had been compiling and researching for the past couple of months. They had put ledge probe data in from Route 129 and a waterline could be done through the swamp depending on soil cohesion but would be more costly. Two new lift pumps, a UV unit, and new filter were suggested in the various options.

Funding was a bit trickier since -3% interest isn't as common as when Phase I was in place. The state's measurement for Median Household Incomes (MHI) has changed and Alburgh's evidently has risen a bit in a few years' time. A 30-year loan at 0% interest seems the more likely outcome unless it can be proven Alburgh residents do make less than online figures. Dick asked if the MHI figure was based off the whole town or just the fire district? The engineers will double check.

More interested people will be needed to fund a Phase II. Some expansion options will also probably cost more than what the district had borrowed, resulting in another bond vote, or a project scale down. Charles and Jeremy did say there were agencies available who do income surveys to more accurately gauge a community's income as a whole. Much of the time it results in income less than what the government has data on. These agencies charge about \$3,500 to \$5,000 dollars, they must be state approved, and certain criteria has to be met. The board thought this would be a worthwhile approach.

Tony asked if a portion of Phase II north of Wagner Point could be removed from the option to save money. The engineers will investigate that potential cost savings.

Tony also motioned to move forward and do an income survey. John seconded. No further discussion, all in favor. Motion carried. Alton asked Charles if a man named Shawn Fielder can come to a future meeting to talk about the income survey.

Paul said the engineers should also be able to pull water quality information around Alburgh's east side to show the state how abysmal the lake water by the Missisquoi Bay is.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alton Bruso motioned to approve the minutes of 4/19/18 and 5/16/2018. Tony seconded, all in favor. So approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

People's United Bank \$40,638.95 (Operating Account)
\$1,003.13 (Project Account) *No updated figures from April
\$18,453.87 (Savings/Capital Funds) *No updated figures from April

NorthCountry Federal Credit Union \$85,956.46(Savings/Capital Funds)
\$2,334.49 (Reserve Account)

\$360.66 Admin Assistant's paycheck for April
\$12.95 To W.B. Mason for envelopes
\$10,677.25 to DuBois & King for engineering (taken from project account)
\$120 to Alburgh Village for water on/off charges
\$310.40 to Danielle James Choiniere to reimburse for stamp purchases
\$125 to NEMRC for help with billing software
\$74.25 to Town of Alburgh for printing sum of bills and letters

John motioned to pay the operating bills totaling **\$1,003.26** and the **\$10,677.25** from the project account for a DuBois & King bill. Tony seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

WATER OR OPERATIONS ISSUES/ CORRESPONDANCE/ MISC

The annual meeting will need to get postponed for a July 16 meeting instead of a June 11 one. The district is working with the village on restructuring their rates. The warning for the annual meeting was approved and signed by all board members and will be posted 30-40 days before July 16.

TABLED ITEMS

Bruso offered to paint blowoffs. Danielle went over electronic newsletter to be sent.

ADJOURN

Alton motioned to adjourn at 8:51 PM. John seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere

These minutes are draft only, not slated for approval until the next board meeting of June 18, 2018.