

South Alburgh Fire District No. 2
Special Meeting with Alburgh Village
October 5, 2015

Present: Prudential Committee members Paul Hansen, John Fitzgerald, George Tulissi
Admin Assistant Danielle James Choiniere

Meeting with Village Trustees: Beth Savage, Troy Lund, Wendy Tatro, Pat Hayes, Corey Osterhoudt, Water/Sewer Superintendent Jason Beaulac, and Clerk/Treasurer Ameer Gotshall. The district was seen at 8:08 pm.

SAFD2/VILLAGE LIABILITIES

Ameer Gotshall, Jason Beaulac, and Danielle James Choiniere are paid by SAFD2 through the village as the former does not have the software capabilities. As far as the state and federal governments are concerned, on paper SAFD2 has no employees. The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), insurance carrier for both municipalities, reported only the three prudential committee members, Clerk Judy Higgins, and Treasurer Richard Ernst are covered under insurance. Jason, Ameer and Danielle are not, so it would be the village who's liable.

Village attorney Bob Roesler advised the practice to stop.

Paul Hansen thought the municipalities' VLCT policies piggybacked.

SAFD2 has the option to specifically contract with Ameer, Jason and Danielle, and the three would have to purchase their own liability insurance. Or, the district could purchase their own program to handle payroll. The Operations & Maintenance agreement between village and SAFD2 would need to be adjusted.

John Fitzgerald expressed it would be a lot of work, Corey Osterhoudt said it shouldn't be that bad. Troy Lund asked if using the village truck performing SAFD2 work is also a conflict. Ameer Gotshall said it may not be covered by the village's insurance if it's damaged on SAFD2 time. Having Jason switch vehicles was an option, but it would take time for Jason to make the switch and try to adjust tools back and forth between trucks.

John Fitzgerald proposed the village and SAFD2 could combine services and merge as one entity. Wendy Tatro found out from attorney Bob Roesler that each municipalities' debts would also be shared. As a village rate payer Ameer Gotshall was not attracted to the idea of incurring SAFD2's debts. Pat Hayes said that would take a vote of both municipalities regardless.

Jason Beaulac brought up the Champlain Water District, a group of more than one district that still operate each their own systems.

It was informally decided SAFD2 reach out to their own attorney for a second opinion and can provide an update on October 19th.

SAFD2 members left the meeting at 8:26 pm. No motions were made.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle James Choiniere