

Minutes of South Alburgh Fire District #2 Prudential Committee October 21, 2024

Prudential Members Attending: John Fitzgerald, Alton Brusco, Tony Speranza

Clerk: John Chesarek

Public: Ryan Jordan, Dennis Irick, John Beaulac, Charlie Macklin, Loretta Knight, Paul Hansen, Dan Mathison, Lori Bishop, Kelly & Tom Ward, Nancy Fisette, Darlene Mercier, Kim Chesarek, Leann Porter, Charlie Shelley

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Due to the large number of community attendees, Chairman Fitzgerald chose to adjust the agenda to move the “Open discussion and community feedback” item to the top of the agenda. John F. presented a review of the current status of the Phase II project. The construction bids came in higher than anticipated. Dirt Tech was the lowest bidder at 8.2 million. This would put the project at around two million over the current debt service plan and make it unaffordable without additional grant money. The committee is looking at possible options.

John Chesarek pointed out that the current scenarios to include Phase I users with Phase II users to pay for the line seemed inappropriate. He felt that since the burden of paying for the Phase I line fell only to the Phase I users, Phase II users should be responsible for the Phase II line. Several other Phase I users recalled no mention of them needing to pay for Phase II when signing up for Phase I. Darlene Mercier brought her original contract as evidence of such. She felt that better communication about this idea to all Phase I users was needed. John F. stated that SAFD#2 is one district being built in three phases. In the end, all of the users in the district will pay one price in fairness to all. Lori Bishop presented a couple scenarios in which all members of the district would share the cost, or just all the members in Phase I and II would share the cost. Tony S. also mentioned limiting the increase to Phase I users to a 25%. Many Phase II customers expressed the need for clean drinking water and vocally supported the project moving forward.

Tony S asked the local excavation contractors at the meeting for any ideas they might have to reduce the project costs. John Beaulac suggested breaking the project into sections and staggering the bidding for each section. This may allow for smaller firms to bid at perhaps lower prices. He also felt the pipe insulation requirements for Point of Tongue were excessive. Ryan Jordan suggested that using DI-9 pipe instead of DI-11 would lower costs without affecting the quality of the project. He also suggested increasing the time allowed for preparing the bid to 40 or 60 days instead of 30 and that the completion time should be more negotiable.

One community member asked if the project would fall under Buy America regulations. Tony said he was unsure and would check on it. (In a discussion with the engineer following the meeting it was determined that Build America Buy America Act provisions would not apply but that American Iron and Steel Consolidated Appropriations Act provisions would.)

The committee thanked everyone for their input and said they would consider all the ideas as they continue to pursue the project. For now however, the construction will not be starting this fall as had been the hope.

A second agenda adjustment was made to include a discussion of a change in meeting day. It will be placed before “Warrants for Payment”.

The minutes of the September 16th meeting were reviewed. John F moved that the minutes be accepted. Alton B seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The board reviewed the Treasurer's Report (see attached). Alton again suggested that the municipal money market account at M&T bank be invested in a higher paying account. John F and Tony S agreed. No decision was made on how this would occur. John F. moved the the report be accepted. Alton B. seconded the motion and the report was accepted.

New Business – None

Old Business – The committee discussed the next steps in the Phase II project. They will discuss the ides from tonight's meeting with DuBois & King. Tony S felt we needed to discuss with the attorney, the legality of imposing a single rate on all users. He requested John C investigate various methods to distribute meeting minutes so that all users are aware of what is being considered by the committee.

Meeting day change – Cheryl Dunn, the Village person responsible for our water billing, requested the meeting day so that she could attend our meetings. The committee felt that Thursday would be an acceptable day to change. No change for now until Cheryl can be contacted.

Warrants – Warrants presented included two invoices from Endyne, the water bill from the Village, a bill from Zoe Brosky for work hours, and the debt service payment bill from Wilmington Trust. John F. moved that a total of \$60,396.81 be approved for payment on the warrants presented. Alton B. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Seeing no further business, John F. moved the meeting be adjourned. Tony S. seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
John Chesarek, Clerk