

Minutes of South Alburgh Fire District #2 meeting January 22, 2025

Attending: John Fitzgerald, Alton Brusco, Tony Speranza, Cheryl Dunn, Kathy Rochedieu, John Chesarek

Public - Lori Bishop, Carol Yarnell, Charlie Shelly, Justin Kirk, Karen & Charlie Lamos, David Jacobs, Dennis Irick, Ryan Jordan, Charlie Macklin,

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 pm by chairman John Fitzgerald. The agenda was adjusted to move the Phase 2 update to the top due to the large public attendance. Tony thanked all who helped with the recent work. After a meeting of prudential board members with engineering firm (D&K) and consultant (RCAP Solutions), the plan from our last meeting to rebid the project in three shorter sections was deemed not the best approach. Instead, it was proposed that we try to proceed with the Dirt Tech bid from last fall. We will need to work with the bond bank to request more funds and perhaps "backend the loan" utilizing perhaps as much as \$100,000 dollars from our reserve capital account for the first few years of the project. Tony expressed optimism that once the project started, the needed hookups would come to make the finances work. He indicated there may be grant programs available to help owners with hookup costs. We will not be proceeding with the plan from last month to hire a grant writer since our current project is considered fully funded and not eligible for new grants. Dirt Tech indicated they are willing to work with us on lowering costs and consider utilizing local contractors, but need to recheck their numbers based on current prices. It was asked if the members of the SAFD#2 needed to vote on the bond before contracts were signed. It was explained that the bond being used for phase 2 is the same as the bond that was approved by voters at the start of Phase 1 of the project. A new bond would have to be considered if phase 3 is developed.

Tony made a motion and John seconded it that we proceed with a formal loan application for increased bond capacity. After some discussion the motion carried. John is responsible for this action.

Tony made another motion that we engage the engineering firm to work with Dirt Tech to build phase 2 on an expected schedule starting in the second quarter of 2025. In the discussion that followed it was decided that such a motion was not needed. Tony was assigned to follow up with DuBois and King.

The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. John moved they be accepted. Tony seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Treasurers Report - Kathy presented a report on our current finances as of Dec. 31, 2024

Operating Fund Balance - \$142,008.13 includes recent \$12,527.50 deposit of paid water bills

Capital Reserve Balance - \$29, 810.84

NCFCU Savings - \$6.63 needed to maintain an account at credit union

NCFCU Money Market - \$133,552.86 Phase 2 deposits

John said he and Cheryl had found a couple deposits in the reserve account that appear to have been deposited in the wrong account, a \$1500 and a \$2500 deposit. He will verify and correct this before the next meeting. Kathy has not moved the capital reserve funds to a higher paying account but will when the account is corrected and she returns to Vermont. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the treasurer's report.

New Business - John asked if the meeting time could be changed to 6pm instead of 6:30. All were in agreement. John moved the meeting start time be changed to 6:pm Alton seconded. The motion passed.

Warrants - The following warrants were presented.

\$70,636.30 DuBois & King - engineering

\$3,045.34 Alburgh Village - water

\$25.00 - Endyne - water testing

Alton moved to pay the warrants. John seconded. The motion passed

John moved the meeting be adjourned. Alton seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.