

Minutes of South Alburgh Fire District #2 Regular Meeting, May 20, 2026.

Members Attending: John FitzGerald, Alton Brusco, Rod Will, Kathy Rochedieu, Charlie Mackin, John Chesarek, Cheryl Dunn

Public: Kim Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by chairman John FitzGerald. The agenda was adjusted to remove the item about two early connection issues. Five new items were added: EPA inventory, a discussion of MOU policy, hydrant cleaning and flushing, meters, and a visitor input item from Kathy.

Minutes -

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed. Kathy moved and Charlie seconded that the minutes be approved. All voted in favor.

The minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting with Chuck Goodling concerning a review of Phase 2 expenses and probable remaining costs were reviewed. Kathy moved and Charlie seconded that the minutes be approved. All voted in favor.

The minutes of the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting set to work on the packet detailing the process for new connections were reviewed. The meeting was taken up entirely by a discussion with Wagner Point residents about their possible connections. Kathy moved and Rod seconded that the minutes be approved. All voted in favor.

John F. had communications with Justin Holmes about the Wagner Point issue and felt it was resolved by Justin. Alton requested that all board members receive the communications. Rod described his efforts to complete the packet and email it to all customers for whom we have an email address. He will continue to try and get all the email addresses, perhaps by texting those for whom we have phone numbers. Discussion followed about the process for connection and contractors qualified to do the work. John C suggested the committee use the term “authorized contractor” rather than “recommended”. Any contractor could become “authorized” by speaking with a committee member and demonstrating their understanding of the district connection process. Kathy moved to create a list of “authorized contractors”. These contractors will have expertise in digging and be aware of their responsibilities regarding the District connection checklist. Rod seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The clerk will update the language on the current list on the website and add new contractors as approved by the committee.

Treasurer’s Report – Kathy presented a report of the account balances and activities for April. As voted on at the last meeting, she paid off \$200,000 of the Union Bank loan but needed to borrow a similar amount to cover the latest Dirt Tech bill, since the state reimbursement had not been received. She plans to extend the Union Bank loan period to October 1 to cover possible Dirt Tech bills which may extend into August. Charlie moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Rod seconded. All voted in favor.

Warrants – The following warrants were presented for approval

\$36,898.22 – DuBois & King, engineering

\$180,519.56 – Dirt Tech, Phase 2 construction

\$480 – Primmer, Piper, Eggleston, & Cramer - law work on ending USDA loan

\$2594.98 – Alburgh Village water

\$25 – Endyne – water testing

\$94.86 – Vermont Electric Coop – electricity for chlorine booster station

\$3000 – Irick Excavation – hydrant repair on West Shore Road

\$2910 – North Country Credit Union – 2026 capital reserve contribution

John F moved and Charlie seconded a motion to approve the warrants: \$8624.84 from operating account, \$217,897.78 from construction account. All voted in favor.

Additional Loan – Following the special meeting of May 4<sup>th</sup>, it appeared that the district would need additional funds to complete the Phase 2 project. Kathy contacted Amy at the state bond fund and Eli, our lawyer, to see if our original bond had the capacity to provide another \$500,000. The money is available on favorable terms and the committee agreed to have the clerk sign a resolution requesting the funds.

Budget – Kathy presented a comparison of the budget to actual for the 25-26 fiscal year. Most values were well within the budget. She then reviewed her process for estimating expenses for next year, with the addition of the Phase 2 costs and additional users. A significant unknown is how many of the almost 100 new users will be connected and paying this year. Payment on the loan debt service will begin a year after the water starts flowing. Other estimates need to be made of the gallons of water to be used, the cost per gallon from the Village, as well as how to pay off the Union Bank loan. We are working to get the base rate in the \$1000 range. Board members will review the numbers presented and agree on a budget at the next meeting to bring to the Annual Meeting the following week.

Old Business -

Phase 2 Updates – Dirt Tech is finishing up the resurfacing Point of Tongue. The gaskets for the ductile iron piping for the petroleum contaminated area should arrive soon. Due to the many utilities on Poor Farm Road, construction progress is quite slow. A mid July finish date is now expected.

Interlocal Agreement – Cheryl was not available to discuss.

Class 4 town road question from last meeting – Alton still needs to discuss with Dirt Tech

Sending out connection packets – previously discussed

EPA Inventory – The EPA requires an inventory of connections for possible toxic substances. John F report that Chuck Goodling will make arrangements with Amy Alford of the state.

MOU Discussion – Rod presented a case of a homeowner who gave the district an easement but got nothing in return. Now the homeowner is paying \$2500 for a connection. He felt they should get a refund since others received compensation for their easements. John F explained that easements were negotiated on an individual basis to facilitate the routing of the water line. That process was completed. He saw no need to reopen it. Other committee members agreed.

Hydrant cleaning and flushing - John F said the hydrants on Phase 1 are in need of cleanup and flushing. He wondered if we should hire someone for the job. Kathy felt it should be referred to our water superintendent.

Meters – John will get bids for 85 water meters and a number of readers. He will also get meter pit information for new customers requiring the pits.

Superintendent Report – none

Visitor Input – Kathy, in the role of a visitor, asked how to get relief for damage to her driveway resulting from a connection line installation. John F said that she should bring it to the attention of Dirt Tech.

John F moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Kathy seconded. All voted in favor.

Next meeting will be June 17, 2026

Respectfully submitted,  
John Chesarek, Clerk