

Craftsbury Fire District #2

August 31, 2021 Bond Vote for Water System Improvements Q&A

Question: *What are the projects that require Fire District (CFD#2) funding through a bond vote?*

Answer: There are two important projects, both of which affect the safety and sustainability of the water system. They include:

1. The Development of a New Water Source: Water is now supplied through two sources. One is the primary high yield groundwater well near the Common developed in the 1960s. A secondary, significantly lower yield well, was developed in the '80s.

In 2019 the State of Vermont required that all Public Community Water systems begin to test for PFAS, and set a Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 Parts Per Trillion (ppt). The primary well exceeds that limit. It is only through blending the primary and secondary wells that CFD#2 can maintain PFAS levels below state standards.

Please see the attached the state's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet with more details regarding PFAS

The CFD#2 Prudential Committee is pro-actively addressing this challenge by locating and developing a new water source.

2. Standby Power System: When there is a power outage on the Common, the water system shuts down and loses pressure - a safety issue for customers, as well as a risk of contamination from outside sources when the water main de-pressurizes.

Question: *How much will this project cost individual water system users?*

Answer: The total project cost is projected to be approximately \$440,900. The new source project is estimated to cost \$315,200.00, and the Standby Power Project is estimated to cost \$125,700.00. At this time it is estimated that approximately 73% will be subsidized through state and federal assistance, leaving approximately \$119,000.00 to be paid via a 30 year loan from the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank. This represents a cost increase to the average user of approximately \$100.00 per year.

Question: *What if the CFD#2 did nothing?*

Answer: The users will continue to have no water service during power outages and the system will face a risk of contamination during those times.

If and when PFAS levels rise above 20 ppt, the State or Vermont will advise the following precautions be taken.

To minimize your exposure, do not use your water for drinking, food preparation, cooking, brushing teeth, preparing baby formula, washing fruits and vegetables, or any

other manner of ingestion. Instead, use bottled water or water from a known safe source. Do not use water containing the five PFAS over 20 ppt to water your garden. The PFAS could be taken up by the vegetables. Do not boil the water. Boiling water will not remove PFAS, and may concentrate them.

Question: *When will the project occur.*

Answer: If the voters authorize the project, the goal is to have the standby power system installed in the Fall of 2021, and the new water source operational by the Spring of 2022.

Question: *What if I have additional questions about the project or the safety of CFD#2 water supply.*

Answer: The CFD#2 Board will be hosting a Bond Vote public information session at 5:30 PM on Monday August 23rd via Zoom. For more information on how to attend contact CFD#2 at: craftsburyfiredistrict2@gmail.com.

Question: *How will the bond vote be conducted?*

Answer: The vote will be conducted via the US mail. All Craftsbury registered voters within the water district boundary will receive a ballot during the first week of August. Ballots must be mailed or delivered to the Craftsbury Town Offices no later than close of business on August 31, 2021.