

Craftsbury Fire District No. 2 Water Board Monthly Meeting

May 24, 2021, 5:30-6:57 pm, Remote Meeting Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Tim Patterson (President)

Jim Flint

Norm Hanson (Board Member)

Polly Allen (Secretary)

Farley Brown

Paula Davidson

Barb Strong (Board Member)

Ian Baldwin (Board Member)

Gina Campoli (Board Member)

Steve Smith (System Operator)

Mark Johnson (RCAP)

Agenda

Welcome from the Chair and Introductions (Tim Patterson)

Subcommittee Reports (Subcommittee Leads)

Election of New Board Member

Public Comment and Questions

Meeting Summary

Special Projects Subcommittee

Three special projects are ongoing:

1. New source well—the well is contaminated with PFA.
2. Back-up power supply, generator for pumphouse
3. Asset Management Plan

Tim P. is working with Sterling and engineers from Dubois and King (D&K). The potential well sites on college property are no longer in consideration because of a variety of considerations including pasture usage needs. The new preferred site is on John Zabar and Farley Brown's property, near an existing CFD#2 well location. Looking for a higher yield well. Ian B. asked why did Sterling withdraw? Fencing and restrictions on their land use were dealbreakers, said Tim P.

Polly A. and Gina C. queried about the costs we are incurring, will we get recouped on this from the loan/grant? We have to carry these costs and this could be high for the district. The understanding is that this work as part of securing water is eligible for the loan and loan forgiveness.

We have outstanding bills to D&K and Paul Guilliani for legal services. Move to authorize George to pay outstanding bills was made by Gina C. and seconded by Barb Strong. Treasurer authorized to pay bills.

Gina Campoli reported that the Board is actively engaged in Bond Vote preparation. The vote must be must be warned 30 days in advance. The Select Board has approved our map of the district that was presented at the Select Board Meeting by Tim Patterson. Board is moving toward planning a vote for late-July, we will miss funding this year, but can't rush it as we have identified new source area and need to make sure that an easement/understanding is in place prior to any bond vote.

Long Term Financial Planning Subcommittee Report

Consultant Jim Flint presented the status of online book-keeping and billing system and said that implementation is going well. Treasurer George Hall is working to learn the system and convert our accounting and Paula Davidson has offered to step on and help support this role. The Board sent a notice to customers regarding the conversion and has heard back from approximately half that they would like to switch to online. We will reach out to those who have not responded to confirm.

Mark Johnson from Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) also presented the status of a rate structure study, which he anticipates will be completed in June. This will provide a basis for understanding rates.

Operator's Report

Steve Smith stated that the system was operating well and no major issues at this time.

Public Engagement Discussion:

The public engagement committee continues to focus on the Bond Vote and public awareness on this front. Also, Board hopes to hold a meet and greet informational session on Common this summer to better acquaint community around what we do.

Election of New Board Members

Paula Davidson has agreed to join the Board for a Term of Three years. Welcome Paula! Barb Strong makes motion, Tim P. seconds. Paula Davidson is elected for a three year term.

Additionally, Tim P. asked Secretary Polly A. for a snap shot of Board Members and when they joined the Board so we can plan for succession.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM