

**Craftsbury Fire District No. 2 Water Board Monthly Meeting**

**November, 2021, 5:30-6:58 pm, Remote Meeting Via Zoom**

**In Attendance:**

Tim Patterson (President)

Polly Allen (Secretary)

Paula Davidson (Board Member)

Barb Strong (Board Member)

Ian Baldwin (Board Member)

Gina Campoli (Board Member)

Steve Smith (System Operator)

Norm Hanson (Board Member)

George Hall (Treasurer and Board Member)

Member of Public: Christina Finkelstein, Customer

**Agenda**

Welcome from the Chair and Introductions (Tim Patterson)

Operator's Report (Steve Smith)

Special Projects (Special Projects Working Group)

Recruitment and New Members (Board at large)

Financials (Paula Davidson)

Comments and Questions

**Meeting Summary**

**Operator's Report**

On October 18<sup>th</sup> as part of the District's standard testing regimen, we had a PFAS hit of 21.9 nanograms per liter (ng/L), which was rounded to 22 ng/L. This number is over the maximum contaminant level allowed by the state of Vermont, though under the United States Environmental Protection Agency Limit (EPA) of 70 ng/L. Because of this, we are required to send out a notification letter to customers regarding the hit. We will retest the well on the 29<sup>th</sup> per lab availability and wait for the results. If they come back positive, we will be required to issue a Do Not Drink Notice to customers which will remain in effect until we have rectified the source issue. The Board is monitoring this closely, and this also underscores the immediate need for a new water source.

Aside from the PFAS issue, the district is operating well and there are no system maintenance issues to report.

### **Special Projects Working Group**

Three special projects are ongoing:

1. New source well—the well is contaminated with PFA (see item above). The Bond Vote held on August 31, 2021 passed and the Board is moving forward with securing a new water source. Next steps are legal and permitting requirements around new source development and subsequent testing and proving of the new source. We have hit a slowdown related to securing land access, as the lease anticipated by the board and by the landowners was deemed inadequate by the state. We are working to rectify this so that the source can begin proving process.
2. Back-up power supply, generator for pumphouse—this project is in development and the request for bids for the projects has been circulated. Two firms have demonstrated interest and our engineer is working with them to solicit proposals.
3. Asset Management Plan: We need to coordinate further with D&K on this, as the Board is not sure of status.

### **Need for New Board Members**

The Board discussed the imperative nature of this issue. Terms are of three year tenure: Tim Patterson is termed out as President (12 years) and Board Members Polly Allen (Secretary) (six years) and Barb Strong (six years) are also concluding terms in January. Other Board members have served multiple term durations. For the Board to viably maintain operations, it is critical that new Board Members are added in January. Two community members have expressed interest, and this is very appreciated and important, but we are looking for more support given the largescale nature of the system issues.

### **Financial Report**

Paula reported that the district has collected most invoice payments from customers. We are waiting on loan disbursal for special project work, which is putting the district in the red. It is imperative that all of the loan paperwork is completed and submitted so that the district can be reimbursed.

It appears that expenses are outpacing customer rates, and that as part of the budgeting process for FY 2022 that the rates will need to be discussed. The financial working group will address this in a planning meeting.

The Board reviewed the Loan paperwork provided by the VT Bond Bank pertaining to Loan RF3-419-3.0 in the amount of \$98,943.00 for the emergency back up generator. Tim Patterson moved that the Board sign the loan paperwork upon review, and Polly Allen seconded this, all approved. For those that were not in person to sign, digital signatures were implemented. The loan paperwork will be submitted as soon as the materials can be scanned.

### **Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM**

**Next Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30, via Zoom**