

Craftsbury Fire District No. 2 Water Board Public Information Meeting

August 23, 2021, 5:30-6:30 pm, Zoom and Craftsbury Public Library

In Attendance:

Tim Patterson (President)

Norm Hanson (Board Member)

Polly Allen (Secretary)

Ian Baldwin (Board Member)

Gina Campoli (Board Member)

John Broadhead (Customer)

Steve Smith (System Operator)

George Hall (Board Member)

Paula Davidson (Board Member)

Jeremy Rathbun (Dubois and King[D&K])

Renee Rossi (Customer)

Agenda

Jeremy Rathbun (D&K): Bond vote meant to correct two issues:

1. Standby power for system delivery—Important for water continuity and also contamination when pipes become depressurized. Probable cost right around \$125,000. Generators are more expensive now, so a bit higher than anticipated earlier. Subsidy is \$80,000. So outlay is the gap between, \$45,000. State of VT set grant money aside to address this issue with small systems, so there is this generous subsidy to help.

2. Improvements to water source. Currently, we have two wells, one higher yield and one lower yield. In 2019 started testing at state level for PFAS (forever chemicals), the high yield well (Well 1) came up positive for PFAS at just under the VT threshold (20 parts per trillion). Our system is not over threshold, and currently we have a blend of water that is keeping the number lower but this is not a sustainable yield and the problem remains. As a result, we need to identify a new well.

Geoengineer Andy Hoak at D&K did an analysis to determine locations for new viable wells. Identified four sites, two on Sterling college property. One was a no because there was septic too close, the other was eliminated as the need for a source protection area precluded uses that Sterling anticipated (livestock/pasture). As a result, both Sterling wells were eliminated as non-viable.

Next source is on land that Fire District already has easement for, where one of our wells currently is (non-contaminated) (Well 4). Anticipating a well that will be drilled about 200 feet away from the existing. We are planning on drilling a test well, and going through the permitting process for a new

well. Will be monitoring other wells. If that is favorable, will be our primary well. Worst case number is \$315,000, of which a subsidy is anticipated to cover \$244,000.

Total cost of two projects is \$440,000, with total loan cost of \$117,000. This will add about \$100 a year to the average user of CFD#2.

Gina Campoli: What if you don't find the water? **Jeremy Rathbun:** You would have to hydrofrac the well, and if that failed then you would have to find a new site. But the bond vote numbers include that worst case scenario. This can occur in a project like this, though.

Polly Allen: How many wells are in the 2000-foot radius for monitoring during the test well process?

Jeremy Rathbun: About 10 wells, more or less. All of them will be notified and engineers have to get permission to access the areas.

George Hall: Would the old wells still exist? **Jeremy Rathbun:** Not totally sure, likely 1 would be abandoned because it has the contamination. Likely Well 4 would still exist. Jeremy says that they may try to increase yield on existing well 4 before drilling a brand new one. This may be a possibility. Anticipates drilling may end up 600-800 feet deep. Well 4 is currently 700 feet deep.

Gina Campoli: What is the anticipated timeline? **Jeremy Rathbun:** If the bond vote is successful, we hope for generator project in the fall assuming ok hurricane season doesn't clean out all generator stock. Drilling well, do test this fall and hopefully the work on implementing well next spring.

Norm Hanson: Wanted to state that all land owners associated with work, have requested that the impact be kept to a minimum, that the area be returned to existing conditions, etc. **Jeremy Rathbun:** That could be written into the contract "restoring to existing conditions". Also, times of work can be stipulated.

These projects are slated to be funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRLF). The Vermont Municipal Bond Bank develops the bond.

Gina Campoli: Reminded the group that there is information on the Craftsbury Town Website at: [CFD#2BondOutreachFinal \(squarespace.com\)](http://CFD#2BondOutreachFinal (squarespace.com))

Meeting Adjourned: 6:30