

LANESBOROUGH VILLAGE FIRE and WATER DISTRICT

Bridge Street/P.O. Box 1504
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 5, 2021

Roll call:

Present: Bill Prendergast, Chairperson, Aaron Williams and Mary Reilly, Board Members, Mark Siegars, District Counsel, Kevin Swail, Superintendent, Linda Pruyne, Treasurer/Accounting Officer, Jodi Hollingsworth, Clerk

Agenda of Meeting is as follows:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (January 8, 2021) Motion passes 3 – 0

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2) Berkshire Village Water Project – Signed contract to Tighe & Bond (easement changed) – Siegars to follow up with Unibank and USDA re: bond process. Pruyne stated LWFD owes Tighe & Bond around \$40,000 and will be paid with bond and grant. Siegars stated bid for the project will be done once the right of way and USDA survey is done (around end of February)
- 3) Asset management with Tighe & Bond – Pruyne waiting for rates from Michael – discussed Bull Hill Rd site for well which was drilled and tested in 1990 and showed high iron – more testing would be needed.
- 4) Private Well Policy – Prendergast brought up possible PFOA concern and Board of Health sampling protocol – Reilly asked if the Board of Health had been notified - Prendergast stated BOH should be notified for private well owners – Williams agreed
- 5) EDU/Meter Replacements – Pruyne is waiting on Tighe & Bond recommendation on EDU and put in place before next fiscal year budget meeting (March)- finances may hold back meter replacement project
- 6) Past Due Accounts – Hollingsworth provided outstanding balance report for all accounts owing more than \$350.00 – Discussion on shut off policy – Williams agrees with shutting water service off to customers who fail to pay or set up payment plan – Swail said he will shut off service wherever he is told no matter what time of year – Siegars to research protections for people of certain age and if municipal utilities can shut off service in winter months – not under public utility law – Reilly offered to call delinquent residents – Prendergast said that is not an undertaking she should do – Prendergast, Williams and Reilly agree to sending out shut off notices to all residents on the outstanding list that had not already set up payment plans with the Collector before the next meeting. Hollingsworth asked if requiring at least 25% of the outstanding balance as a down payment in order to enter into a payment plan was acceptable – Prendergast, Reilly and Williams agreed to requirement.

- 7) Abatements – 617 South Main St is on outstanding balance report and has been determined to be a parking lot – Hollingsworth to send owner an abatement application. – 125 South Main St – abatement requested - Swail informed the Board that the shut off at the curb was broken and it is the property owners responsibility to fix Abatement denied 3-0
- 8) Mall Meter – Pittsfield is willing to read LFWD meter which will lower the bills -Swail to meet with Pittsfield when they read the meter – Mass DEP has filed a complaint against the mall for illegally discharging into ground water which could contaminate private wells on Old State Rd, Swamp Road, Berkshire Village – Prendergast, Reilly and Williams agrees to have Siegars to write letter to DEP seeking information as to why the mall has not met the conditions
- 9) Bridge Street well update – Prendergast spoke with Peter and was told it was a good idea to get another sample from Bridge St and pump down to ground water – Reilly agrees – Swail states it was tested last month and waiting for results – Williams said the pump should run for an hour before testing – Reilly agrees – Williams states the Bridge Street well could have this issue for the lack of use – Prendergast discussed the application for a grant / loan and thinks another round of samples are needed to figure what treatment systems and then apply which will be a big advantage – Siegars asks why do all this for a well that cannot supply whole water system – Williams suggests redeveloping Bridge St well (deepening) – Prendergast states this may tie up the well for 6mo to a year – Williams suggests running it by Tighe & Bond – Prendergast stated the carbon system can be leased – Siegars stated if testing remains low for two cycles, treatment is not required – Williams testing criteria remain the same every time i.e. pumping duration – Prendergast called Peter for suggestions on sampling procedures – pump for 2 hours before sample - Swail informed the board Berkshire Engineering does the sampling
- 10) Insurance – no changes
- 11) Water District website – Siegars to contact company that does the Town of Lanesborough website to create website for the Water District

REPORTS:

- 12) Treasurer's Report : Motion to approve warrant 3-0
Pruyne states no big payments coming up – Siegars asked to submit bill for his services – Swail to provide list of time and material spent on Longview line breaks – Williams concerned about quality of service (Longview) and to set budget to accurately reflect what the water district really needs and set the rate with that information - Prendergast is concerned with increasing bills to customers

NEXT MEETING: Friday, March 5, 2021 at 10:00 AM via ZOOM

Jodi Hollingsworth, Clerk