

WAKEFIELD BUDGET COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING  
SANBORNVILLE WATER PRECINT MEETING

March 2, 2020

Approved

Commissioners present: Peter Kasprzyk, Paul Morrill and Dean Giffin.

Mr. Kasprzyk opened the meeting and introduced Mark Badger, Ken ?, Brian ?, and ?. He went on to say that they have upgraded meters, rehabbed well #3 and are tackling recent leaks. He said all Commissioners get a daily report in the morning by text about what is happening. He thanked all that are involved with the precinct. Mr. Morrill said there is an Assessment Management Plan in place. The books are in order and they continue to seek funding. He talked about the many grants they were rewarded in 2019.

The support of the people on the water system has been extremely good. He talked about the condition of the main pipes and because they are very old and porous when one leak is fixed another one appears nearby. They talked about raising rates and the fact if their rates were too low, they would be unable to get grants. They stressed contacting the department if you're having trouble paying your water bill and a payment plan will be set up. Brian ?. from Granite State Rural Waters made a presentation about a new website at a minimal fee and the annual fee would be about the same price as a Precinct mailing. Agendas, meeting schedules, minutes and up to date news, water outages, service disruptions could be posted, and members could receive email or text alerts.

**Water Precinct and Budget Committee Meeting**

Budget Committee members present: Chairman Jerry O'Connor, Priscilla Colbath, Denny Miller, Elizabeth Conner, Frank Zappala, Dave Mankus. Peter Kasprzyk, and Paul Romano.

Commissioners present: Peter Kasprzyk, Paul Morrill and Dean Giffin.

Mr. O'Connor opened the Budget Committee meeting at 6:36. Mr. Kasprzyk said they are trying to get some grants and loans and are waiting to hear back from

Rural Development on whether or not they qualify and also the State has given them an offer for a loan and also they are trying to get a grant to coincide with that so they are requesting a meeting with the Budget Committee on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to discuss any further warrant articles at that time.

Mr. O'Connor read **Article #3: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) to be added to the existing Emergency Capital Reserve Fund.** Commissioners recommend this article 3-0.

The Commissioners used the \$25,000 for the Rines Road project but found they didn't need it so are presently trying to put that money back in the CRF. Once that money is returned to the CRF there will be \$30,000 in that Fund.

**Mrs. Colbath made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to recommend Article #3. (Vote 8-0)**

**Article #4: To see if the Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of two hundred seventy eight thousand seven hundred dollars (\$278,700) for general recent operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.** The Commissioners recommend this article 3-0.

Mr. Giffin pointed out the budget explanation paperwork that had been passed out to the Budget Committee and members of the audience. The last column is the amount the Commissioners are requesting this year. The bottom line is \$303,700 which includes the \$25,000 in article #3. Leaks were a major cost. Pump #3 was rehabbed, a new alarm was installed, gas heat and water heater, a new injection pump and metering pump were purchased. The new equipment came to \$12,350. The well turned out to be a major job. Equipment and repairs came to \$46,395. These improvements will save money in the long run.

Mr. O'Connor commended the Commissioners on the huge improvements they have made over the past two years. Mr. Morrill said prior to well #3 being rehabbed they were getting 83 gallons per minute and now they are getting 150 gallons a minute. Well #2 also needs to be rehabbed. They are presently running well #3 during the day and well #2 overnight. They do have the funds to rehab this well and add a submersible pump.

Mr. Miller asked why there were no numbers in the New Construction, New Construction Misc. and Engineering lines for this year. Mr. Giffin said that was all

grant money and it is unknown how much and where the grant money will come from for offsetting revenue. There will be a Community Block Grant. They hope to know more when they come back to the Budget Committee on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Morrill said that they are still talking to lawyers and DRA about loan/grant money. He told the Committee that the interest for a bond would be 1.7%. Mr. Miller asked if the Water Precinct was under the same restriction as the town as far as not being able to spend money from a line without at least a dollar in it. Mr. Morrill said they are authorized to accept and expend funds for any grants they receive. Mr. Kasprzyk said they have two sources they are trying to get funding from. One is through Rural Development and they have an application with them for 4.1 million dollars. They are hoping that 60% of that would be a grant, which could vary, and the remainder would be a loan. That has the potential to be their best offer. NH DES has offered them a loan of 3.7 million dollars. They would feel comfortable with a hundred thousand dollar a year payment because they are spending a hundred and thirty to forty thousand dollars on just repairs and that would give them a thirty to forty thousand dollar cushion to cover other leaks that may occur. They would have to borrow the full amount but 20% would be forgiven. They are not sure when they will hear about the Rural Development grant.

There will be a discussion about the two grants/loans on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kasprzyk said they would be hiring an attorney to write the warrant article. The preliminary plans that they have focuses more on the main lines on the main roads. Every time you do one of these projects you have to do an Environmental Impact Study and there are also other requirements. They determined they would do all the state roads first and only have to deal with their permitting and their costs one time. Some of the pipes are eighty to a hundred years old. Loans could be from five years to thirty years. The first payment isn't due for a year after the completion of the project. This gives the district an opportunity to collect a year's revenue in advance of that payment.

With a thirty year loan the cost would be spread out for future users also. It is financially impossible to replace the entire system all at once. With water mains you have some flexibility and can prioritize what you want to do. With the loan-grant, if the Precinct received a grant from somewhere else that loan-grant would reduce the amount they would receive. They have to weigh all the factors. There

are seven and a half miles of pipe. This money would take care of probably half of the bad pipes. Some of the pipes are in decent shape, like Forest Hills was laid in the 1970's and some of that has already been replaced. The Block Grant that they just accepted for Rines Road can be applied for every year. They received a hundred thousand dollar grant to explore new well sites. Mr. Morrill said they will contact the state and see when paving is scheduled to take place on the state roads and maybe partner with them and save paving costs. Mr. Mankus asked about sewer line replacements. Those lines are on the opposite side of the roads. Mr. Kasprzyk wanted to make it clear that the Town and the Water Precinct are two separate entities. Mr. Miller believes the Precinct will need a warrant article to bond a project. They will check into that. Mr. Morrill said they have spent many many hours a week dealing with paperwork, leaks grant writing and meeting timelines.

**Mr. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Colbath, to recommend Article #4. (Vote 8-0)**

**Mr. O'Connor opened the Public Hearing at 7:24.**

Mr. Doug Soares asked when the voting takes place. Mr. Morrill said April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Selectmen's meeting Room, Town Hall.

Mr. O'Connor recessed the Budget Committee meeting at 7:31 to reconvene on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next meeting,

Priscilla Colbath  
Secretary Pro Temp

