

Wakefield Budget Committee Meeting
with the Sanbornville Water Precinct

March 22, 2021

Approved

Members present: Jerry O'Conner, Priscilla Colbath, Paul Romano, Relf Fogg, Dave Mankus, Denny Miller, Howie Knight, Tom Daniels, Peter Kasprzyk and Connie Twombly

Water Precinct Commissioners: Peter Kasprzyk, Dean Giffin and Paul Morrill. Christine Nason, Secretary.

Jim Miller and Max Gehring of Clearview Community Television.

Mr. O'Conner opened the meeting with the flag salute. Mr. Miller asked about the Collections line that went from \$6,000 to \$19,000. Mr. Giffin said because of the virus they haven't been able to collect any past due bill money. Mr. Knight asked if they accounted for the potential increase in the cost of propane. Mr. Giffin said they switched from electric to propane. They're saving about \$1,000 a month on Electricity. Mrs. Twombly asked about administrative costs. Mr. Giffin said they will be giving a 5% raise to some of their employees and that also includes consultants. They expect the secretaries workload to be increased. She will be working hand in hand with the engineer. Mr. Twombly asked what the Commissioners were getting paid. Mr. Giffin works about 30 hours a week and Mr. Morrill and Mr. Kasprzyk work about 20-30 hours a week and He gets \$3,000 as chair and the other two get \$2,500. Mr. Miller asked if the Precinct had any plans to work with the school on the land on Rines Road for a new well. Mr. Kasprzyk said they had received a \$100,000 grant for exploration. They are looking for a suitable location and they have already started applying for grants for that purpose. They have added a warrant article for the well to this years warrant. They will also develop a Capital Improvement Plan.

Article 2: To see if the Sanbornville Precinct will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Emergency CPF previously established with \$25,000 to come from unassigned fund balance."

Recommended by the board of commissioners (3 of 3)

Mr. Knight made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Twombly, to approve Article 2. (Vote 10-0)

Mr. Morrill said they are considering going to quarterly billing to make it easier for customers to pay. He said they were researching a new reader that can be used to read meters from a vehicle. Bills are now sent out semi-annually. Sewer bills are based on water usage.

Article 3: To see if the village district will vote to establish a Technology Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for future technology and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 25,000 to be placed in this fund with \$25,000 to come from unassigned fund balance and further, to name the Precinct Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund.

Recommended by the board of commissioners (3 of 3)

Mr. Knight made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve Article 3. (Vote 10-0)

Article 4: To see if the village district will vote to establish a Wells Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for Wells Maintenance or Construction and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 25,000 to be placed in this fund with \$25,000 to come from unassigned fund balance and further, to name the Precinct Commissioners as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the board of commissioners (3 of 3)

Mr. Knight made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve Article 4. (Vote 10-0)

Article 5: To see if the village district will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of the Sanbornville Precinct matching share of grant money received for the Asset Management and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 12500 to be placed in this fund with \$12,500 to come from unassigned fund balance and further to name the commissioner's as agents to expend from said fund. Recommended by the board of commissioners (3 of 3)

Mr. Knight made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fogg, to approve Article 5. (Vote 10-0)

Mr. Romano asked how many subscribers the water district has now. Mr. Morrill said about 420-440. Mr. Romano asked on the revenue said of the budget sheet there's nothing showing for money for grants will that be populated when you start getting grants or do you currently have grants to fill that in? Mr. Morrill said that should have \$2,500 in that line.

Article 6: To see if the village district will vote to raise and appropriate the budget committee recommended sum of \$ 259900 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Recommended by the board of commissioners (3 of 3)

Mrs. Twombly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Knight, to approve Article 6. (Vote 10-0)

Article 7: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

The water department charges interest on overdue water bills and a lien is put on their property when necessary. Last year they were not allowed to charge interest or discontinue service because of the governors executive order. There is \$30,000 in overdue water bills right now. An average bill is about \$800 a year. The cost is 1.3 cents a gallon.

Mr. O'Connor opened the Public Hearing at 7:09

Mr. Morrill said last Monday night Mr. Kasprzyk, Mrs. Colbath and himself were at the public hearing to accept a \$1,000,000 grant from Northern Borders so they are able to expand the scope of the project without having any affect on the rates. This will allow them to add a pressure zone so some customers will gain water pressure. Mr. Morrill explained how this system would work. Mr. Morrill said he was told to forewarn the Budget Committee that they may have to come back for a Special Meeting to get an easement or to purchase a small piece of land for the pump station.

Mr. O'Connor closed the Public Hearing at 7:15.

Mrs. Twombly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the minutes of January 30th. (Vote 7-0-3)

Mrs. Twombly made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the minutes of February 3rd. (Vote 8-0-2)

Mr. Kasprzyk thanked the Budget Committee for their support. Mr. Miller thanked the three Commissioners for all they've done.

Mr. Knight made a motion, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26. (10-0)

Respectfully submitted for approval at the next Budget Committee meeting,

Priscilla Colbath

Secretary Pro Temp