

Craftsbury Fire District No. 2 Water Board Annual Meeting

January, 2022, 5:30-7:20 pm, Remote Meeting Via Zoom

In Attendance:

Tim Patterson (President-Outgoing)

Polly Allen (Secretary-Outgoing)

Paula Davidson (Board Member)

Barb Strong (Board Member-Outgoing)

Ian Baldwin (Board Member)

Gina Campoli (Board Member)

Steve Smith (System Operator)

Norm Hanson (Board Member)

George Hall (Treasurer and Board Member-Outgoing)

Christina Finkelstein (Incoming Board Member)

Nicole Civita (Incoming Board Member)

Rene Rossi (Incoming Board Member)

Member of Public:

Jeremy Rathbun (D&K Engineers, Consulting Engineer)

June Cook

Farley Brown

Jed Dornburg

Joan Simmons

Lori Collins-Hall

Penelope Doherty

MJB

Susan Frey

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions (Tim)
2. Operator's Report + PFAS Update (Steve and Jeremy)
3. Welcome new board members (vote)
4. Recognize departing board members (This will be brief, and we will plan an in person outdoor gathering in the warmer months.)
5. Elections of new officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer)
6. Special Projects Status Report (New Source Well, Back Up Power System, Asset Management Plan)
7. Financial Report (Paula + financial planning committee)
8. Budget + Rate Proposal (vote to approve budget and proposed rates)
9. Schedule for weekend water checks + future meetings, training for new board members
10. Other Business
11. Executive Session to set System Operator's compensation for 2022

Meeting Summary

Tim called the meeting to order and the agenda was revised to present the status of the PFA Do Not Drink Emergency as first order of business.

Operator's Report and PFAS Update

Well 1 (contaminated) has been shut off. System is running on Well 4 and trucked water. There is concern that Well 4 is not yielding the anticipated amount, and Jeremy and Steve continues to troubleshoot whether it is a capacity issue or whether the pump is not the right size for the well and is overdrawing well. Best solution as agreed by the team is to install a pump saver to keep the well pump from overdrawing. Will be installing this in the next few days when parts come in and technical assistance is available from Manosh.

After discussion from members of public and Board, Jeremy agreed to provide a chart with a timeline for the anticipated resolution of the Do Not Drink, this will be circulated to customers. The overall plan is for the pump saver to be introduced and water retested in next ten days, Do not Drink lifted following testing. The Do Not Drink will need to be preemptively reinstated once the blending of Well 1 and Well 4 is undertaken, which is necessary as an interim water source step as we wait for permits to drill new well. Running well 4 alone is cost prohibitive as with return of college students we would require significant trucking. The Board will keep customers apprised of all orders and steps in process.

There was discussion over feasibility of installing appropriate filters to screen water for PFAS at customers kitchens, particularly Sterling and Craftsbury Academy. VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had discouraged this but Board requested Jeremy investigate whether a waiver is possible as we rectify situation. This is becoming a major financial burden for our customers and we want to seek a solution.

The Board discussed Emergency Funding avenues. We are conversing with our insurance company about our coverage. We also have been coordinating with emergency funding streams but thus far have been advised that funding does not exist for this situation. We have been very grateful that Craftsbury

Neighbor to Neighbor has been assisting with provisioning of water to some customers in need. We are continuing to investigate this and will report to customers.

Introduction of New Board Members and Election of Officers

Three community members have agreed to join the Board in 2022. The Board and community are very grateful for their service. The three prospective members introduced themselves: Nicole Civita, Rene Rossi, Christina Finkelstein.

Norm moved that they be elected, and Ian seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

Tim Patterson, Barb Strong, George Hall, and Polly Allen were recognized for their service on the Board and are stepping down. There will be more of a festive gathering in the spring, but for now with the work on hand and the public health situation, they were sent off virtually. Particular recognition was given to George for his longstanding role as treasurer and years of service.

Officers were elected as follows:

Board Chair / President—Gina Campoli (moved by Norm, seconded by Ian, all approved)

Board Secretary—Christina Finkelstein (moved by Gina, seconded by Norm, all approved)

Board Treasurer—Paula Davidson (moved by Norm, seconded by Ian, all approved)

The new Board Members will also be working to determine which committees they would like to participate in: Special Projects, Asset Management, etc.

Financial Report

Paula presented the proposed budget for 2022. This budget was developed prior to the PFAS emergency and therefore does not include ongoing costs associated with this. As part of financial planning efforts, it has become clear that our expenditures related to water service, testing, and new source development are outpacing our revenue and it has been determined that an increase in our rates is vital to maintain the system's viability. The Financial Committee is in the process of developing a letter to customers explaining the proposed rate increases. These rate increases are designed to keep us in line with costs, and put us at an appropriate level for water source rates. Ours are far lower than the VT state average. More data will be developed on this in the letter to customers that is forthcoming.

Norm made a motion to approve the budget for 2022, Ian seconded. All approved.

Schedule for Meetings and Water Checks

Because of all of the work that is ongoing, the Board proposed to meet once a month for at least the next six months. The meeting is proposed for the first Monday of every month at 5:30 pm. In addition, the Board proposed another meeting addressing the emergency for the 24th of January at 5:30. All will be warned and held over Zoom.

Weekend water checks are as follows:

George Hall (retired Board Member) will check the usage numbers numbers at end of each month.

Weekend checks will be undertaken by the following Board Members:

Norm—January, February

Gina—April, July

Ian-May, October

George-November, December (retired Board Member)

Rene-March

Nicole-June

Christina-August, September

Gina moved that the Board move to executive session, to discuss system operator compensation. The intention of the Board is to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment to the Operator and a bonus based on the heightened workload associated with addressing this emergency. Our System Operator's work is of vital importance and very appreciated by the Board and community.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Next Meeting: PFAS Update Meeting, January 24th at 5:30, via Zoom