

LANESBOROUGH VILLAGE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT
20 Bridge Street/P.O. Box 1504
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
20 Bridge Street, 10:00 a.m.

May 05, 2023

The Lanesborough Village Fire and Water District held their regularly scheduled meeting at 20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough, Massachusetts on Friday, May 05, 2023. Chair William Prendergast called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The agenda was properly posted.

Roll call: **Present:** William Prendergast, Chair; Mary Reilly and Aaron Williams, Board Members; Mark Siegars, District Counsel; Linda Pruyne, Treasurer; Kevin Swail, Superintendent; Cindy Roughley, Clerk; Kristen Tool, Website Design/Maintenance

Also present: Rick Reed, Town of Lanesborough Building Inspector; Ben Gelb, Town of Lanesborough Treasurer/Collector; Katie Lemanski, Town of Lanesborough Accountant

1. William Prendergast opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes – Mary Reilly made a motion to accept the minutes from the 04-07-2023 meeting. Aaron Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.
3. Christine and Ed Kucka had water samples taken and there were no issues with the water. Seems to be a water softener issue that is causing problems.
4. Rick Reed asked a question about how it is handled when owners are not using water on distressed property. Answer is they have to pay one half of the rate and/or disconnect fee. Kevin Swail to email a copy of the water policies to Rick Reed. Also discussed online system checklist for projects/permits. Rick will add the Water District to the system. That will generate an email to confirm or deny that water supply is available/active.
5. Rick Reed asked about the current well policy and discussion was had regarding requirement to hook up to the Water District system if the property is located in the District. The Water District will continue to work on the well policies.
6. The Water District is sending a letter to the Town of Lanesborough Board of Health with a suggested plan for Nonamie Trailer park and the Board of Commissioners signed the letter.
7. Abatements: The Augers stated there was an overpayment by their bank to the Water District for property on Alice Avenue. Linda Pruyne to write a check for the refund. Ben Gelb to discuss the details with the Augers to be sure the bank doesn't continue to send overpayments.

The appeal process that the Town of Lanesborough uses for abatements should be used by the Water District and should be printed on the back of the abatement form. Ben Gelb to send a copy of the appeal process to Cindy Roughley so that it can be added to the back of the Water District abatement form.

There was an abatement request received for \$ 752.50 for property on 39 Sunrise Street. This request is approved by the Board.

8. 1 additional senior 25% discount application was received after the deadline of April 30, 2023, but was approved by the Town for real estate discount, so the Water District will also approve it for the discount.

There was an application for the senior 25% discount received from Judith Depson that was denied because the applicant did not qualify for the senior 25% exemption from the Town for real estate taxes and the Water District follows their qualifications. The application with denial decision noted will be mailed to applicant by Cindy Roughley.

9. Kristen Toole reported that 4 customers contacted the Water District through the website to ask questions and all were addressed.
10. A discussion was held regarding the MA rural water association recovery of funds for PFAS class action lawsuit. Aaron Williams made a motion for the Lanesborough Village Fire and Water District to join the class in the lawsuit. Mary Reilly seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
11. Treasurer's report: Linda Pruyne presented the budget. The Board will review the budget in detail. Mary Reilly made the motion to hold a special meeting on Friday, May 19, 2023 to discuss the budget. Aaron Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
12. A discussion was held regarding the Treasurer position. Katie Lemanski to receive approval from the Town Counsel prior to taking over as Treasurer. Linda Pruyne to continue as Treasurer until Katie is trained. Mary Reilly made a motion to hire Katie Lemanski as Treasurer, Aaron Williams seconded the motion. Motion was withdrawn and new motion was made by Mary Reilly to hire Katie Lemanski as Assistant Treasurer. Aaron Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Katie Lemanski will be paid \$ 36 per hour starting on May 15, 2023 as the Assistant Treasurer.
13. Superintendent's report: Kevin Swail reported that the Ocean Street project is progressing. Tighe and Bond to conduct a walk through of G street and Ocean Street at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023.
14. The annual Water District meeting to be held by June 30th, 2023. Date to be finalized at future meeting.
15. Mary Reilly made a motion that the next monthly Water District meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 9, 2023. Aaron Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.