

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

January 06, 2023

The Lanesborough Village Fire and Water District held their regularly scheduled meeting at 20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough, Massachusetts on Friday, January 06, 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; Kevin Swail, Superintendent; Cindy Roughley, Clerk; Kristen Tool, Website Design/Maintenance. Linda Pruyne joined the meeting remotely via Zoom.

Absent: None

1. Mary Reilly made a motion to open the meeting, seconded by Aaron Williams. William Prendergast opened the meeting.
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes – Mary Reilly made separate motions that the minutes of the meetings from 09-30-22, 10-07-22, 11-04-22, 11-10-22, and 11-18-22 should include William Prendergast as present for those meetings, as his name was inadvertently left out. Aaron Williams seconded the motions. All in favor, motion carries. Cindy to correct and send out revised minutes.
3. Fran Kelley from Nonamie Trailer Park – Fran was notified by the Town's Board of Health that they will issue a 30 day order to answer why the water pressure is low. Kevin suggested a 1 inch line may be the problem and that a 4 inch line may be needed. Discussion regarding how the Water District can provide assistance. Mark will help Fran to look for grants and make applications for funds, contact Berkshire Housing and talk to Fran further about a plan.
4. Senior Exemption - Linda Pruyne asked the Board to consider an exemption for seniors that followed the same eligibility requirements as the Town's real estate tax exemption. Suggested one quarter or 25% forgiveness of annual water bill, which would be \$ 218. Discussion followed. Mary Reilly made a motion to approve the Senior exemption for those who have applied for and have been approved by the Town's tax exemption for Seniors. Motion seconded by Aaron Williams. All in favor, motion carries. The Town's deadline for application for the tax exemption is April. It was suggested that the Director of the Counsel on Aging, Lorna, could put a notice in the senior newsletter and Kristen would post a notice on the Water District's website to inform the community.
5. Abatements – resident at the end of Hollow Road in Berkshire Village has been receiving a water bill but should not. This has been corrected. No other abatements.

6. Treasurer's report – discussion regarding loan for backhoe. Aaron Williams made a motion to approve an equipment loan of \$ 100,000 from Adams Community Bank and to authorize William Prendergast and Linda Pruyne to execute any and all documents necessary to complete the transaction. Motion seconded by Mary Reilly. All in favor, motion carries.

The warrant has been signed by the Board.

Kevin to look into the insurance premium and deductible to compare the cost of policies.

The 1st quarter metered water bills were not sent out. Linda instructed the collector to send the 1st and 2nd quarter bills out together, but they were sent separately. This resulted in 6 metered accounts not being billed accurately. Working to resolve this.

Discussion regarding Laurel Ridge – used to be metered and now billed at flat rate. Mary Reilly asked that this be put on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

Question regarding assessment of fee to Town for fire hydrants that is passed on to Fire Department. Mary Reilly asked that this be put on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

7. Website update – Kristen Tool reported that website had 150 visits. Kristen will add post about the Senior exemption to the website.
8. PD/EMS building hook up fee waiver – Kristen Tool asked that the Board consider waiving the hook up fee for the police and EMS new building, which is \$ 3,000. Discussion followed. Aaron Williams made motion to approve waiving the hook up fee. Motion seconded by Mary Reilly. All in favor. Motion carries.
9. Superintendent's Report – Kevin Swail reported that the parts were received for the meter changeover for the business meters and the changeover will start soon. A list for new meters will be created and notices mailed out to property owners.
10. Shut offs – no shut offs will be done in winter. Collector will be asked for a delinquency report.
11. Next regular meeting will be Friday, February 03, at 10:00 a.m.
12. Meeting adjourned by Chair William Prendergast