

LANESBOROUGH VILLAGE FIRE AND WATER DISTRICT  
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

February 03, 2023

20 Bridge Street, 10:00 a.m.

The Lanesborough Village Fire and Water District held their regularly scheduled meeting at 20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough, Massachusetts on Friday, February 03, 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.

Absent: None

1. William Prendergast opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes – Aaron Williams made a motion to approve the minutes from 01-06-2023 meeting. Mary Reilly seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.
3. Kristen Tool provided update on the Water District website – 254 visits and more residents are paying their water bills through the website. So far the minutes from the meetings from 2020 through 2022 are available on the website.
4. Fran Kelley from Nonamie Trailer Park –the Board of Health sent 30 day notice regarding water service. Not much can be done due to frost in ground. Needs an engineer to review. Mark Siegars has been assisting to find and figure out funding sources. Contacted Representative Neil's office. There is a price program but it has not been set up yet. Fran Kelley to come back at next meeting for updates.
5. Treasurer's Report – Linda presented the warrant for February. Remaining funds in USDA account, requested \$ 32,000 reimbursement. Suggested increase in budget for Commissioner's stipend rate.
6. Financial assistance - Mark Siegars mentioned that the COA is requesting someone to go and present the information to the seniors regarding the senior exemption. Linda Pruyne suggested that if someone qualifies for Federal heating assistance through BCAC then that person should qualify for the exemption on water bill through the Water District's contract with BCAC. Information should be made available to residents through the Town's newsletter and the Water District's website. Linda Pruyne suggested the 25% exemption should be extended to the same exemptions that the Town gives for real estate taxes as per Massachusetts General law 59 (seniors, veterans, surviving spouse, persons with disabilities).

A person would only be eligible for one exemption. Linda Pruyne to find out from Town collector if the water bill should be a reduced amount or not bill resident for 1 quarter to allow for the exemption. Mary Reilly made a motion to approve the 25% water bill exemption for whoever qualifies for the same Town of Lanesborough exemptions under Chapter 59 of Massachusetts General Laws. Aaron Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

Cindy Roughley and Linda Pruyne to work on updating the abatement application form to include the exemptions.

7. Shut-offs – there aren't any shut offs in the winter.
8. Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Clerk – Following discussion Mary Reilly made the motion that Cindy Roughley be appointed as Assistant Treasurer and Linda Pruyne be appointed as Assistant Clerk so that there is coverage of each position in case of emergencies. Aaron Williams seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries.
9. Payments on backhoe – Linda Pruyne handed out a copy of the schedule of payments for the loan: 84 monthly payments of \$ 1,509.07.
10. Town hydrant service – currently the Water District bills the Town \$ 2,000 annually for fire hydrant service. Mark Siegars proposed that the amount be the cost to replace one fire hydrant each year and that the funds be put into a dedicated fund for that purpose. Discussion followed and Board agreed to keep the current base charge, subject to annual adjustment.
11. Mall/Target – haven't received any bills from Pittsfield yet for Target's use of water.
12. Electric bill – Aaron Williams looking into rates for different providers and will present at the next meeting. Kevin Swail stated that a representative was to come to give assessment on solar panels at the District Office.
13. Superintendent's Report- Kevin Swail discussed asset management and noted that the current dump truck from 1999 is starting to wear and finding parts has been a challenge. A new dump truck is estimated to cost \$ 78,000. The meter replacement program has been set up and replacements will start when the weather gets better. The pipe on G street and Ocean street needs replacing. Project was put out for bid, Tighe and Bond to start in the summer for next fiscal year. All of Ocean street replacement will be about \$ 250,000. We are waiting on proposal from Tighe and Bond for the Bull Hill Road project. The heating stove in the garage needs to be replaced.
14. Mark Siegars discussed new regulations on drought management regulations and that there is a lawsuit against the Commonwealth regarding recovery for PFAS. Mark to research if the water district would benefit from participation in the class action lawsuit.
15. Mark Siegars discussed potential for USDA loans for projects. To see if Joseph Delbove would come in for a meeting to discover if there are opportunities for the water district.
16. Next meeting Friday, March 03, 2023 at 10 a.m.
17. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. by William Prendergast.