

LANESBOROUGH VILLAGE FIRE and WATER DISTRICT

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

July 8, 2022

Roll call: Present: Bill Prendergast, Chairperson, Aaron Williams and Mary Reilly, Board Members, Kevin Swail, Superintendent, Mark Siegars, District Counsel, Linda Pruyne, Treasurer/Accounting Officer, Jodi Hollingsworth, Clerk, Kristen Tool, Mark Bashara, Jim Rathbun

Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes – moved to next meeting (due to Clerk not giving Commissioners enough time to properly go through)
2. Public Comment – Mark Bashara expressed concern regarding the increase in rates and the need for all District customers to be metered so the residents pay for what they use – Bashara feels residents are held hostage to the District and wanted assurance that the water he was drinking was safe – The Commissioners reassured him it is safe – Bashara requested a copy of the budget and the Districts “Master Plan” i.e. Asset Management and was given copies of both - Jim Rathbun expressed concern over the PFOA’s found and questioned if the District would test an individual residence if the customer had severe health problems – Commissioners agreed to such tests - Siegars reassured him the contaminated well has not been used at all since January 2021 – Rathbun asked if it would be feasible and more cost effective to connect to Pittsfield and have the water supplied that way – Prendergast explained the District is starting to prepare for infrastructure improvements with Pittsfield possibly being a backup if ever there is a problem with the Districts well – Rathbun also expressed concern of the rising cost of water and it’s effect on seniors in the community – Siegars explained the District is now working with a new program through BCAC in helping seniors with their water bills. Rathbun questioned why residents in the District cannot drill a well – Siegars stated the policy could only be changed through a petition and vote at the Annual Meeting and also possible grants are being investigated to keep future rate increases down - Prendergast told both residents their concerns will be discussed in a future meeting.
3. Website Update – Tool reports traffic has slowed down some with most visited being Bill Pay – Reilly asked if frequently asked questions can be added to website – Tool said it can be done, the commissioners just need to provide her with the questions and answers they would like included.
4. Berkshire Village – Letter from the state has been received officially extending the District to include Berkshire Village – still waiting on last DEP grant payment – Hollingsworth stated 3 residences in Berkshire Village were billed for water but contacted the Collector to say they are not hooked up to water (7 Hollow Rd., 8 Hollow Rd, and 145 Old State Rd) Swail told Commissioners these were not connected so Collector will abate and make inactive – Pruyne asked how will the District know one of these properties does get connected – Swail to draft statement for the Town and District websites stating the District must be notified via permit if water connection is made – Siegars also suggested the catch basin be cleaned at the end of the month.

5. Abatements – 45 Summer St. – vacant house – Williams made motion to change to TTO rate – passed 3-0
191 Old State Rd – Union Chapel – Williams made motion to deny, Reilly seconded with regret – Abatement denied 3-0
6. Berkshire Mall – Target is putting in their own water line and once completed, water to the Mall can be shut off for non-payment
7. Commissioners vote to approve proposal to prepare the Project Evaluation for SRF funding and amend project list to remove Skyline Country Club and replace it with Glens Road – passed 3-0
8. Commissioners vote to approve Invitation to Bid for Bull Hill Road Water Quality Testing and Sampling subject to addressing legal councils' questions – passed 3-0

Superintendents Report

Longview will be flushed and sampled next week – Bangor St main extension is almost complete – John's Excavating has not yet sent invoice for pipe used for the Bangor extension project – Swail to put ad in paper this week for Assistant Superintendent position.