

**North Branch Fire District #1
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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the North Branch Fire District #1, Prudential Committee, July 6, 2016.

This Meeting, having been duly warned, was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman, Hobart Terhune.

Members Present: Thomas Ferrazza, Hobie Terhune, Edward Barber, Cyndee Frere and Daniel Facilla.

Also Present: Geraldine Golet, Bart Howes, Rebecca Snow and Linda Holland.

Public Comment: Holland informed the Committee that she had just received word from Todd Ormiston, Head of School at Mount Snow Academy, stating there are issues with the water at the Matterhorn Lodge and Mount Snow cannot purchase the Matterhorn until this matter is resolved. If necessary would the Fire District be willing to receive any uranium waste from a proposed new water system. Mr. Ormiston will keep the Committee informed.

Letters: Dated June 7, 2016 a pre-buy contract from Synergy Gas for the 2016 – 2017 seasons. Synergy's quote was 1.849 per gallon, Cota & Cota quoted 1.91 per gallon and Suburban Propane quoted 2.39 pre buy or 1.59 variables. The Committee suggested calling Osterman Propane. (Note: The Osterman Propane quote was 1.889 per gallon).

Notification from the United States Bankruptcy Court that an Order dismissing the case of Richard A. Zalinski and Jennifer S. Zalinski, was granted. This property is located at 30 Sunne Village, tax map #SU019.

Dated June 15, 2016 a copy of the Land Use Permit for Seasons on Mount Snow, LLC f/k/a Seasons Associates. The Permit specifically authorizes a subdivision and construction of associated infrastructure on a 9.65 acre parcel. The subdivision will be comprised of 14 dwelling lots accessed by an interior Loop Road of 1,175 feet.

Dated June 29, 2016 a Certificate of Contract for Diane P. Blumenthal for 120 gallons to add a bedroom to her home at 18 Summit Meadows Circle. Construction of the project has a completion date of December 31, 2016. Attached to the application is a check in the amount of \$3,625.00.

Dated June 28, 2016 a Certificate of Contract for Thanassis Mazarakis for 300 additional gallons for the proposed house on Someday Road tax map #SG002B. The additional gallonage is to add 2 bedrooms and a loft to an already proposed three bedroom house. Construction is anticipated to be completed this summer. Attached to the application is a check in the amount of \$9,025.00.

Dated June 23, 2016 a letter from Holland to the Judicial Bureau of Vermont requesting to have Bartholomew Howes added as one of the officers for the North Branch Fire District #1.

Dated June 27, 2016 notification from the Judicial Bureau of Vermont assigning an officer number to Bartholomew Howes.

Dated June 16, 2016 a letter from Holland to Ashley Grande, Mount Snow, LTD requesting payment in the amount of \$9,735.50. The amount requested is \$500.00 for “as built” plans \$300.00 for the contract and \$8,935.50 is the 10% fee for this phase at the \$30.00 per gallon rate.

Dated June 17, 2016 a letter to David Epstein of The Abbey Group indicating the fees due for the Sundance Village contract are as follows. Remaining 10% at the current rate of \$30.00 per gallon \$14,040.00 and the 40% fee due within 90 days of the Act 250 = \$93,600.00 a grand total of \$107,640.00. The total of \$107,640.00 has been paid in full.

Dated June 9, 2016 a letter from Ketan Kinkhabwala requesting the by-pass meters for pool deductions be reinstated. Mr. Kinkhabwala states there is no provision at all that takes into account loss of water do to evaporation, which can be a lot or actual pool use, water being splashed out. Mr. Kinkhabwala replenishes up to 3”of water every week to make up water lost by evaporation. “That’s a lot of water that does not go into the sewer. For me to be charged that way is absurd”.

Dated June 15, 2016 the final Indirect Discharge Permit issued to the North Branch Fire District #1 which has been signed by the Director of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division for the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Minutes: Ferrazza moved to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2016 as written. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

Ferrazza moved to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2016 as submitted. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously.

Geraldine Golet/Mandated Meters & Associated Costs: Golet is concerned that the cost of the meter and the plumber are very expensive, even on a time payment schedule where the District is charging 3% interest. “People cannot afford \$1,000.00 for meter installations”. Golet feels this matter should have been put to a vote due to the costs. Golet asked the Prudential Committee for the cost of three men for two weeks twice a

year to read meters. Holland will get these figures to Golet. The Committee explained to Golet that most of the meters in the Fire District are 42 years old and the cost to replace all the meters is approximately a million dollars. Add the plumbers' fees and the cost raises by approximately another million dollars. The Committee has considered borrowing or perhaps floating a bond. Golet suggested adding a few dollars to everyone's bill to cover the meter costs. The Committee did not feel that would be fair as the prices of the meters vary greatly. Example: Household meters range from \$229.00 to 380.00 depending on the parts needed. A 2" compound meter with heads & flange kit is \$1,832.00 and the 3" compound meter with heads & flange kit is \$2,180.00. The Fire District does not make a profit on the meters; they are purchased from the District at cost. Another advantage of the new cellular meters is the "Eye On Water" feature available to customers of water utilities that have implemented the BEACON Advanced Metering. This gives consumers direct access to their water consumption data and provides tools to help them manage their water use. Water management features available through Eye On Water include graphics showing recent usage, with a comparison against average usage; usage trends; detailed charting of historical usage; a leak alert function; and recommendations to conserve water, with the ability to set up a customized profile to receive personalized tips.

Letters will soon be going out to each homeowner that has not installed the cellular meter, giving them notice that they have until January 1, 2018 to have the meter installed. Attached to the proposed letter, giving notice, will be a pamphlet reminding all homeowners that their meter needs to be changed to a cellular read. This pamphlet gives the homeowner instructions to sign up for "eye on water" mobile access.

Treasurer's Report: Ferrazza moved to approve the monthly bills totaling \$62,624.21. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

Ferrazza moved to hold the Technicon check until we have clarification on the amount billed for preliminary engineering. Seconded by Frere for discussion. Ferrazza withdrew his motion and Frere withdrew the Second. Facilla moved to have February through June bills itemized using the January bill as an example of what we are looking for. Seconded by Ferrazza. Passed unanimously.

The last Operational check written is check #27457
The last Capital check written is check #1088
The last Petty Cash check written is check #855

Snow reported that the current prudent reserve is \$351,167.65.

Chief Operator's Report: Howes reported that we had an overflow at manhole RT-93 of 5,000 gallons due to the line being partially obstructed with grit and rocks. This manhole serves Timber Creek and Greensprings. An excavator was rented so we could replace a small section of line. On June 27th a jetter/vacuum truck was hired to clean what remained. The line above this clog was camera inspected and found to be clean

and in good condition. On July 5th. the crew bent back and camera inspected the line after the initial cleaning and found the line from this manhole down needs to be jetted/vacuumed again. A jetter will come down on July 14 and we will camera inspect as they are cleaning to determine what needs to be done for a permanent fix.

Because we did not use the RFQ process for the preliminary engineering report and instead just hired an engineer, we are not eligible for the grant/loan for that phase. Once we choose an engineer for final design/construction phase we can apply for those portions of the engineering to be funded by the grant/loan. Application period opened June 30, 2016.

Also submitted by Howes is the written monthly report on the status of the treatment facility.

Select the Engineering Firm for the Proposed Upgrade: Tabled until August 10, 2016.

Review and Approve the Meter Placement Agreement: Ferrazza moved to approve the meter placement agreement based on today's changes. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.

Executive Session: Ferrazza moved to go into Executive Session at 2:10 p.m. to discuss contractual matters. Seconded by Frere. Passed unanimously. Ferrazza moved to come out of Executive Session at 2:30 p.m. Seconded by Barber. Passed unanimously.
DECISION: To have Ed Floyd complete the preliminary engineering report for the next meeting scheduled for August 10, 2016.

Old Business: Update from Sub-Committee: We are continuing to move forward with the Priority List, Contracts and Commitments List. Four more contracts to go back and review but we made a great deal of progress the last meeting. Next meeting for the sub-committee is July 20th. at 1:00 p.m.

Other Business: Holland informed the Committee that she had received an application to place a ½ bathroom in a workshop/barn. As there are no bedrooms, sleeping spaces, lofts etc. how should she charge for the connection. Holland was asked to contact the Springfield office and take their calculations. (Note: After contacting Jeff Svec, and two days deliberation in Springfield, the Agency decided to charge 30 gallons per day based on the fact that it is a garage/barn and no one will be there full time and it has no sleeping or living space).

Terhune moved to adjourn at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Linda L. Holland,
Administrative Manager

cc: H. Terhune, D. Facilla, E. Barber, E. Floyd, T. Ferrazza, Cyndee Frere, Bart Howes, Ed Floyd, Joe Mahon, Amiee Pritcher, Arlene Palmiter, Donald Albano, Linda Anelli, Adam Levine, Jeannie Flanagan, Leslie Fraser, Ashleigh Perkins, Cliff Turpin, Rolf Parker-Houghton, G. Golet, Deerfield Valley News and the Brattleboro Reformer.

Posted: North Branch Fire District #1, Wastewater Treatment Facility & Administrations Building. Dover Town Office.