

TOWN OF WEATHERSFIELD, VERMONT

**Prudential Committee  
Ascutney Fire (Water) District No. 2  
Regular Meeting  
Martin Memorial Hall  
5259 Route 5, Ascutney, VT  
Monday, January 8, 2024 at 4:30pm**

**Prudential Committee Present:** Everett Bingham, William Southard, Wendy Smith

**Attendees:** Olivia Savage, Marion Ballam, Steve Smith, Brandon Gulnick, Susanne Terrill, Lisa Slade

**1 Call to Order**

Mr. Bingham called the meeting to order at 4:32pm.

**2 Review minutes from previous meeting(s): 12/13/23, 12/18/23**

**Additions/corrections/deletions:**

a. None.

**Motion:** To approve.

**Made by:** Mr. Southard

**Second:** Ms. Smith

**Vote:** All in favor

**3 Cemetery Road Waterline Extension**

The Committee discussed how it would cost \$7,500 to add one household on to the water system. The committee will find out if the couple had received an estimate from a well company as of yet.

**4 FY 25 Budget**

The Committee reviewed the FY25 budget and a comparison of the FY22 and FY23 actuals. The FY25 budget was still in draft form and needs work, but provided a good estimate. The water district had been using savings to pay for its annual operating expenses so not effect customer's rates. It is not salaries that is costing the district as salaries run around \$14,000-\$15,000. It was estimated that the water district needs about \$25,000 for general operating expenses and that was with not putting anything into reserves. Thus, would need to be a 29% increase in rates to cover \$25,000 a year. The committee discussed how to achieve this without burdening customers and stated that they would like customer input.

The committee and citizens discussed at length how there is not enough revenue coming in and how expensive meters are. It was discussed that by purchasing what was needed for meters from the reserve fund would deplete it and leave the district in a vulnerable situation if there was an emergency, such as a broken line, which had happened already. It was discussed and agreed upon that individuals should have to pay for their own water usage.

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The committee discussed how they were in the process of securing grants and that the current water rates, in comparison with other nearby communities, are some of the lowest around. The committee discussed high interest rates and how a loan would prove to be more expensive long term. The committee has been repairing and replacing meters as they have been able to. The committee discussed having a combination of unmetered base rate and usage increases.

**5 Draft Job Descriptions**

Not discussed.

**6 Purchasing Policy**

Not discussed.

**7 Proposed Rate increase**

Not discussed.

**8 Any Other Business**

None.

**9 Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn.

**Made by:** Ms. Smith

**Second:** Mr. Southard

**Vote:** All in favor

Meeting Adjourned at 5:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nichole Gagnon