

Wakefield Budget Committee – Water Precinct Meeting
Sanbornville Water Precinct Public Hearing
Thursday, 2-11-2010, 6:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

Budget Committee in attendance: Dave Mankus, Howie Knight, Judy Nason, Connie Twombly, Liz Olimpio, Denny Miller, Asha Kenney
Water Precinct in attendance: Dean Giffin
Town: Robin Frost, Town Administrator

Mr. Knight called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

Mr. Knight reminded the Committee that the Water Precinct takes no tax dollars from the Town, but that the Budget Committee is required to review the budget.

Mr. Knight then wondered about the remaining duration on the outstanding notes. Mr. Giffin responded with the belief that there is at least 10 more years remaining, but that the notes were taken for 30 yr term, and the precinct is making 2 payments a month, so the term will be shortened significantly. Mr. Giffin then went on to note that the Precinct has replaced approximately ½ the pipes and with past increased rates, the Precinct has funds for additional capital improvements.

Mr. Knight then wondered if the equipment & repairs line was sufficient at \$14,000. Mr. Giffin assured the Committee that it is. The plan is to replace 3 chemical pumps at @ \$1,200 each. The pump & motor at well #3 needs to be pulled and replaced, but the motor is under warranty.

Mr. Miller asked about water quality. Mr. Giffin responded that the quality is good. There was an e-coli outbreak last year, but the water was treated quickly and the matter resolved within hours. Because of the type of outbreak, the Precinct was required to send out notices to those on the system, but the issue was resolved before the letters could be received. He went on to say that corrosion is also under control. Mr. Miller wondered how equipment is disinfected. Mr. Giffin explained that domestic chlorine bleach is used inside & out. The chlorine used in the water purification process is much too strong. Ms. Nason wondered about test frequency. Mr. Giffin confirmed that the water is tested monthly, at 2 locations for bacteria, alkalinity, & PH. In addition, there is annual testing for VOCs, and testing every 3 years for HOCs & IOC.

Ms. Nason wondered about the possibility of the Town taking over. Mr. Giffin responded that it could happen, but that significant planning, and the purchase of additional water rights would be necessary first. Mr. Miller noted that there are large aquifers in East Wakefield & on Pray Hill. Mr. Giffin emphasized that acquisition needs to happen so as to protect the water quality, and that the wellhead protection areas is generally very large. Mr. Miller observed that the Town should get royalties if a bottling operation came to town. Ms. Nason wondered about grant money for such a purchase. Ms. Frost said she would look into it. It was noted that a treatment plant would cost at

least \$1,000,000. Ms. Nason wondered if the water on Pray Hill would still be available if the electorate decided to make the land there a Town Forest. Mr. Miller said yes. Mr. Mankus wondered how much land would be needed for wellhead protection. Mr. Giffin said that it varies with the configuration of the aquifer and the substrata. Mr. Miller observed that the Pray Hill area has some 400 acres with no homes. Mr. Mankus wondered if dwellings were allowed in a well head protection area and Mr. Giffin said yes, but that they would be very closely monitored. Ms. Nason then wondered who should buy any land determined to be necessary, the Town or the Precinct. Mr. Giffin believed it should be the Town.

Ms. Nason wondered about the \$135,000 difference between the 2009 budget & expenditures. Mr. Giffin explained that timing issues got in the way of performing certain repairs.

Ms. Olimpio questioned collections. Mr. Giffin confirmed that as of 1-1-10, they were down about \$2,000. Mr. Miller then inquired about liens and Mr. Giffin confirmed that they are used, but only as a measure of last resort.

Mr. Giffin then noted that there have been recent Right of Way issues on the Kenney property, with Mr. Kenney alleging that the ROW is not defined clearly enough. This concern is being addressed. As a result, Mr. Miller wondered if the Legal appropriation was sufficient. Mr. Giffin assured the Committee that he believed it was, that historically, the \$2,000 retainer was sufficient to cover all issues.

Someone wondered about the wording of the Articles. Mr. Giffin assured the Committee that the wording has been approved by the State.

Mr. Giffin made the motion to recommend Article 2 as presented. 2nd by Ms. Twombly. Motion approved.

Mr. Giffin made the motion to recommend Article 3 as presented. 2nd by Ms. Twombly. Motion approved.

Mr. Giffin made the motion to recommend Article 4 as presented. 2nd by Ms. Twombly. Motion approved.

All Budget Committee members present then signed the Budget as presented.

Mr. Miller made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Mr. Giffin. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.