

**Special Meeting Minutes- East Berkshire Fire District 1**  
**March 23rd, 2023 @6:30pm**  
**Berkshire Town Hall**

Attendees:

Board Members: Hildy Jamka, Bonnie Stowe, Andrew Hoadley

Treasurer/Clerk: Samantha Elwood

Visitors: David & Rebecca Stanhope, The Bushey's

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm

1. Reviewed revised proposed budget for 2023. Items of interest:

- 2022 actual total annual expenses are \$80,990.05 that was actually disbursed BUT we had \$60,335.28 of accounts payable that went unpaid in 2022. If we had paid all that was due last year, our actual expenses would have been \$141,325.33.

- We received \$105,000.00 in ARPA funds from the town of Berkshire that is allocated for supply line replacement. We are working on implementing that project this summer. These dollars are their own line items in both Revenues and Expenses to reflect actuals but kept separate from operating cost to help clarify and allow comparison to previous and future years.

- We had \$27,036.35 in outstanding accounts receivable as of Jan. 1, 2023. This budget is being presented in cash basis format to capture funds we anticipate receiving in 2023 which allowed us to set rates without raising them to cover these outstanding accounts receivable.

- The prudential committee reviewed what was submitted to the USDA project grant and found items not submitted totaling \$50,131.35. This is a line item in 2023 budgeted revenue.

-Upcoming grants for water source exploration: WINN grant \$260,000.00 and grant through Rebecca Balint's office for \$50,000.00 (est 2024.)

-Will not change base rates, but put proposal in to lower overage from \$50 per 1k gallons over to \$25 per 1k over.

2. Hear from visitors:

a. Rebecca Stanhope: Said that average use per person for the state of Vermont is 3k per person per month, so the 12k quarterly "doesn't work." Hildy let her know that the allocations were reviewed with the state, are compliant, and are reasonable from their numbers.

b. David Stanhope: Asked if we had gone to SOS to renegotiate their monthly fee, we just entered into a new contract and have been putting our time into grant applications to get water source discovery funds.

c. Bushey's:

i. Expressed concern about a large quarterly bill. They say this is the first but they do not know why they were so over on gallons. Sam will email

Crystal at SOS to review the bill and can have Ross run an hourly report to see if a leak is detected.

- ii. Mentioned that we could check with the town of Enosburg to support our system instead of SOS
  - iii. Asked if we could implement a credit system for gallons not used each quarter so that if someone goes over they can use gallons not used previously. Or allow a bank of a certain # of gallons in case someone goes over one quarter. An unlimited bank is not feasible for the system, but a limited bank could be reviewed for implementation.
3. Vote on proposed budget- Stanhopes abstained from voting:
    - a. Budget passed unanimously 6 votes for yes and 0 for no
  4. Adjourn meeting- Hildy moved to adjourn at 7:45pm seconded by Andy, motion passed.