

## Meeting of the Westminster Selectboard and Westminster Fire District #5

Monday, December 11, 2023

Westminster, VT Town Hall

**Selectboard present:** Katrina Hamilton (chair), Stephen Major (vice chair), Kevin Hughes and Jason Perry

**Staff Present:** Alison Bigwood

**Others Present:** John Leppman (Prudential committee chair), Alyssa Harlow, Gail Rogers, Wade Masure (Bellows Falls Village Trustee), Scott Pickup (Rockingham Town Administrator)

**Call to Order:** Ms. Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

1. **Adjustments to Agenda:** Jason Perry motioned to move Article 2 up on the agenda in place of Article 1 and move Article 1 down on the agenda in place of Article 2. Kevin Hughes seconded, motion passed 4-0.
2. **Treasurers report:** John Leppman announced that the acting treasurer, Kathy Blake has resigned. Alyssa Harlow has been working as treasurer for fire district #5 to reconcile customers accounts with regard to sewer billing. To date there is \$20455.25 in the bank. There is only one bill waiting to be paid to VLCT for their insurance. Stephen Major requested some background information on the issue of unpaid sewer bills and why the fire district is in charge of the sewer billing in North Westminster. When the Village of North Westminster dissolved, the fire district #5 was established by the Westminster selectboard. Fire District #5's only present job is to administer the sewer line in North Westminster. Currently fire district #5 is billed by Bellows Falls Village and Fire District #5 then bills individuals. There is an unpaid balance due to Bellows Falls Village of \$54,000. John Leppman said that the Village of Bellows Falls bills the water lines directly but not the sewer. Mr. Pickup said that they are working to confirm the balances of accounts and apply leins to those properties. Currently there are 2 properties that have leins on them. Mr. Pickup speaking for the village trustees stated that they would like to take over administration of the sewer lines, billing and reconciling accounts themselves as they currently do with water. This would require dissolution of Fire District #5. Mr. Leppman, speaking for the Prudential committee agreed that they would like to have fire district #5 dissolved and for the Village of Bellows Falls to take over administration of sewer lines in their district. **Stephen Major made a motion to consult with town legal council, Larry Slason, to determine the process to dissolve fire district #5 and assign future administration of the system on the Village of Bellows Falls. Jason Perry seconded, motion passed 4-0.**  
Stephen Major noted that the motion was for future administration, it does not address the current balance past due as we do not know what the accurate past due debt is at this time. If leins are to be placed on properties, that would probably need to be done prior to the dissolution of fire district #5.
3. **Adjournment:** Mr. Major made a motion to adjourn and Kevin Hughes seconded, the motion passed by voice vote 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.