

SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING

WASTEWATER

Date July 24, 2023 SIGN IN SHEET

Signature name	Print name	Phone #	Address
<i>[Signature]</i>	Andy Bear	802 463 8444	4015 US West Bank
<i>[Signature]</i>	Tan Corti	802-551-0051	85 Walker Rd East Jordan
Roger J Tanner	Roger J Tanner	802-467-3154	
<i>[Signature]</i>	Catherine Tanner	802-477-8834	63 Highland
Karen Goetz	Karen Goetz	802-553-2057	99 Newark St West Bnd
John Kiernan	John Kiernan	802-377-5938	RECAP SOLUTIONS 1145 Rt 74 Snowmass VT 05720
Kathleen Seftin-Ailes	Kathleen Seftin-Ailes	802-535-4147	3921 Rt. 5 West Burke VT 05771
Joel Ailes	Joel Ailes	802-535-2982	3921 Rt 5 West Burke VT 05771
Sherry Loyes	Sherry Loyes	802-274-9302	335 Burlington Crossing Rd
Cathie Wheeler	Cathie Wheeler	802-626-5029	PO Box 24 E Burke VT 05732
Katherine Hardy	Katherine Hardy	802-274-4134	48 Bridge St
Byron Hardy	Byron Hardy	802-473-1661	48 Bridge St
Leslie Turner	Leslie Turner	802-535-8665	4766 US Rt 25
Kym Wobler	Kym Wobler	467-3019	195 Burlington Crossing
Lyle Webb	Lyle Webb	"	"
Nancy Devane	Nancy Devane	467-3326	3922 US Rt 5 West Burke

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Signature name	Print name	Phone #	Address
<i>Evdyn Franz</i>		802-274-8852	PO Box 57 W. Burke, VT
<i>Leah Clark</i>		353 S. St	W. Burke
<i>Kevin Blain</i>			us rate 5
<i>Justin</i>	TIM WADEN	802-467-9859	3948 US RT 5 W Burke
<i>Jeffrey</i>	Geoff Beorn	502-535-5051	2319 Newark St.
<i>Nancy Forward</i>	Nancy Forward	802-467-0020	644 Newark St.
<i>Dan Nolan</i>	Dan Nolan	882-673-4618	52 High St. W. Burke
<i>Lee Alford</i>	Jane Alford	802-394-6457	4820 Burke Island Rd - W. Burke
<i>Dan Allard</i>	Dan Allard	502-622-8740	East Burke
<i>John Kasenkla</i>		802-274-4118	East Burke
<i>Mark Loh</i>	John Loh	781-351-0102	25 Woburn Rd E Burke
<i>Matt D. Whitcomb</i>	Matt D. Whitcomb	435 640 8543	789 Washburn Rd E Burke
<i>Valerie Desmarais</i>	Valerie Desmarais	467-2663	2517 Brask Rd, West Burke.
<i>Jessica Parshus</i>	Jessica Parshus	508 944-9303	2191 Gaskill Hill Rd
<i>Dave Kaufman</i>	Dave Kaufman		"
<i>Charlotte Simpson</i>	Charlotte Simpson		3374 Rt 5. W. Burke VT

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Signature name	Print name	Phone #	Address
<i>[Signature]</i>	Barbara Fort + 44	803 955 8271	18 Church
<i>[Signature]</i>	Jennifer S. Barone	802-535-2288	Jenn.s.barone@gmail.com
Tom Manges	Tom Manges	467-3928	TomManges@gmail.com
Phil Buttlin	Phil Buttlin	517 796 7411	2007 GHR, WB
Nicholas Hale	Nicholas Hale	626-4580	234 Walker Rd East Burke
Gary Leach	Gary Leach	535 4934	251 High Ridge
Chris Emmons	Chris Emmons	535-7575	523 Gaskell Hill
Ben DeWitt	Ben DeWitt	535-0082	3507 US 5
<i>[Signature]</i>	Kristi Graham	603-667-6682	2705 Pitman Rd E.B.
<i>[Signature]</i>	Tom Helleberg	603 667 7443	" " "
Andreas Conway	Andreas Conway	802 274-4443	850 Gaskell Hill Rd W. Burke
David Flanagan	David Flanagan	274-6606	186 Bumps Rd
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	271 7882	West Burke
<i>[Signature]</i>	Emily Switzer	745-7006	38 Church St W Burke
<i>[Signature]</i>	George Leaper		US Route 5

Town of Burke Special Informational Meeting

Wastewater Bond Vote

Monday July 24th 5 PM at the Burke Community Building

Meeting called to order by Joe Allard, Select Board Chair at 5:07 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe then read the meeting warning, including the Article referencing the general obligation bond of \$10,635,000 for the purpose of financing the cost of water and sewer system improvements in the area of West Burke. He then read the ballot and stated the rules for an open and fair meeting: sign in, raise your hand and state your name, identify yourself, try not to repeat points that have already been addressed, address comments to the chair, be respectful and do not interrupt. Time limits will be utilized when necessary to allow everyone a chance to have their question heard.

He turned the meeting over to Andrea Day. Since 2018 nearly 800 hours has been invested in the wastewater project. She noted that some of the funding is time sensitive and hence the short timeline. The project represents a great opportunity for the town of West Burke.

Miss Day presented a PowerPoint to outline the history of the project:

Why is this needed? About 33% of residents in West Burke have failing systems and due to the proximity of the West Branch of the Passumpsic municipal water and waste system upgrades are necessary to protect the waterways. Peter Fairweather then spoke to the potential for economic development in West Burke as a percentage of people leave town to make purchases. These include services, restaurants and specialty food and housing. There are target opportunities that can add to the vitality of the community.

Ms. Day spoke again regarding property values and taxes, more businesses and residential homes add to the tax base. The proposed location is the gravel pit behind Mike's Gas and Redemption has the best potential capacity. There is still much work to be done to determine the site of the public water supply.

Who will be served? Phase I of the system is based on state guidelines. Additional capacity is being built into the design.

What will it look like? The site is proposed to be developed as a part of a baseball field.

How does this compare to a basic residential system? There are inspections and there will be a state licensed operator.

What is the cost? The total estimate is \$10.6 million for construction in 2025.

Who pays? The capital costs are supported by the entire tax base, typically through a low interest loan. Estimated tax impacts are \$85 for a 150,000 home.

Ongoing operation is 35 / month for 44 users and 20/ month for 80 users. These numbers are in constant refinement.

Passing the bond vote is a "yellow light" to allow for further study. Even a passing bond vote does not oblige the town to take the funds and issue the funds.

What happens next? There is a lot more work to do. The number of users that are necessary to connect will be determined based on funding availability.

If the article fails the USDA funding is no longer available. Without a positive bond vote, the project does not have a path forward.

The meeting was then opened for comments: Mr. Blais asserted that "there was a lot of spending to fix a problem that doesn't exist." Lisa Allard spoke and introduced herself as Joe's wife. She referenced a document that indicated there would need to be more funding available for Phase II and III which Ms. Day confirmed. She stressed that she and Joe want to see the town succeed. She presented some basic info referencing individual systems being repaired for 30k per.

She indicated that West Burke needs sidewalks and improvement to the existing homes and buildings. She also stated that she is concerned about fixed income folks adding another expense to their budgets.

Jennifer Barone wondered about continued funding; it is speculative that there are additional grant funds available as we progress with the project.

Keith Clark asked about the phases and partial systems and wanted clarification about who pays, Joe confirmed that the cost is spread out among the entire citizenry.

Ms. Day noted that any grants received do not impact the total bond and that the amount is not to exceed \$10.6 M. This amount may be reduced by grant funding. Ms. Day noted that replacing the 80 residential systems would not be able to be funded with the current funding streams.

Jeff Boone asked about wastewater operator cost; Ms. Day noted that these are not professional engineers and that there is an alarm system in the homes to alert the part-time operators if there are issues. He also wondered about the new tax rate and if these figures are based on the new assessment, which they are. What is the contingency for folks who have issues paying? Operational costs are built into the proposed project cost.

Andy Bean wondered where the digging would take place? What is the set back? Ms. Day noted that there are details that will need to be worked out. There is a surveyor who will work on the details.

Gary Leach asked that since the report is not final are they looking at other options? The answer is yes. Is there time to have another bond vote. August of 2026 is the final date. USDA will only give 45% due to the situation not being a health hazard.

Ms. Vanderhoop suggested that hurrying through the voting process without more info seemed hasty.

Mary Duane asked about mandated connections to the systems, but that has not been determined.

A question was asked about how the system crosses the river; there is directional drilling that will go under the river. Ms. Day stated that it is very common for these types of systems. The new town garage was mentioned as another possible expense to the town.

Jessica Caravello: What is the next step? The project moves ahead with further studies, as well as allowing the town to move forward. When would the expense show up in one's taxes? After the completion of the project.

Sherry Noyes asked if the tax rate has been set; Cathi confirmed that it has not.

If the bond vote is not passed, the project cannot go forward. There has been no testing of "the waterway". There has been no testing of any surface water. Where does the money come from for additional hookups? Once complete that cost is on the homeowner?

Valerie asked about another vote and an opportunity for the citizens to weigh in on the concept of a mandated connection, Joe agreed it would be good to get the opinion of the citizenry on the mandate question.

Lynn Welch wondered if there are not 80 households, what happens? There are going to be further studies to assess the feasibility, Ms. Day asserted that the funding is a onetime opportunity.

Leon Turmel asked about the "numbers" being "conservative" and wonders about transferring your property to someone who does not want to be connected to a municipal system. Mr. T also wondered if the current households had been assessed as to the rate of failure; the 40% is based on results of a survey of the project area re: the age of the systems, There was a 30% return rate on the survey, the assumption is that given the age of the residences and the 40% figure was extrapolated from that.

Chris Emmons gave a brief timeline regarding the initiative and a group was formed to address issues impeding the growth of West Burke. Ms. Emmons mentioned that Joe Allard identified the need for revitalizing the Village of West Burke 3 years ago. Ms. Emmons noted that everyone needs to understand how the project will impact them. She stressed that people need to vote based on facts. She further noted that there can be a series of bond votes as the project advances. We are one of the only towns that are in different stages of the projects and that the funding is still fluid.

Mr. Blais wondered if there was an engineering firm bidding, the board replied that we are not in that stage yet.

Linda Lotti identified herself as a "One Burke" committee member, there have been 6 years of exploring and trying to understand the needs of the community. She noted that there are households in Burke that will really benefit from this project. 5-6 hundred thousand has already been spent on the studies and feasibility of the project. She hopes people can understand that and think about their neighbors.

Bruce Douglas from the State noted that this is the appropriate time to have the bond vote. There is a template and other towns have provided the template of moving forward once the bond vote has passed. The next steps are a more detailed characterization of potential impacts. Vermont has very rigorous steps in place for safe and conservative thresholds for water management. Potable water supplies need to be checked; there is a set-back of 1000 feet and a hydrological study would need to be performed.

Regarding a mandate – is there a number of households? Yes, there are 80 households that would be required to connect if there is a mandate. Joe noted that he doesn't know how that would be enforced.

Dan Flannigan commented that there are 2 constants...death and taxes and taxes are certain. He feels it is important to give the project a shot and that this is a move in the right direction.

Ms. Lotti noted that the information process will continue, there will be other opportunities to be heard and inform the process. Joe stressed again that every person and their opinion is important.

Dave Kaufman wondered about the longevity of this system; Amy XXX from Montpelier noted that there is a track record of over 20 years. The overall life span would be similar or greater. Annual inspections will inform the operational and maintenance requirements. Dave asked about the bond vote with a payback schedule of 30 years with a system lifespan of 20 years? These systems are not constructed with an operational timeline of 20 years.

Dan Allard spoke, he noted that the system is a drip dispersal system, what happens when these freeze? The lines drain out after every cycle. The systems are below frostline and are designed to operate in cold conditions.

Do other communities in Vermont have this system, there are other systems in the northeast. The technology is being proposed in other communities and there will be more information presented.

Mark made a motion to adjourn, Jerry seconded. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 6:50.