

**Town of *New Salem* Selectboard  
Meeting Minutes  
August 24, 2022  
Held Virtually via Zoom  
Joint Meeting with Wendell Selectboard**

**Convened:** 6:02 pm

**Present:** Hugh Mackay and Carl Seppala, Selectboard; Kathy Neal, Town Coordinator; Tim Newton, Health Agent, Jenm Potee, Board of Health; Marney Ashburne, New Salem; Laurie DiDonato and Dan Keller, Wendell Selectboard; Doug Tanner, Wendell FinCom; Kelley Sullivan, Principal, Swift River; Jen Cullkeen, Supt. Of Schools, Erving School Union #28; Eric Lehan, Tighe & Bond; Beth Erviti, Swift River School Committee from Wendell;

**Discussion Items**

**PFAS in Swift River Water:**

Tim Newton went over the DEP deadlines of the consent order, second report due by August 31.

Eric Lehan of Tighe & Bond (T & B) went over the three alternatives they are presenting: 1) install and operate a PFAS treatment system; 2) drill replacement well; 3) re-line current well.

**Treatment system:** has some challenges on where to place it. The mechanical room where well is has some challenges to meet codes with proper setbacks. The alternative would be to install it in the music room classroom, adjacent to the mechanical room, that closet already houses a 660 gallon hydropneumatic tank. T & B is of the opinion that this alternative is the lowest risk and lowest cost, approximately \$75,000.00 with a \$7,000 annual operating and maintenance cost which includes disposal of resin.

**Replacement well:** this is considered a public water supply, may be issues with controlling zone 1 and issues on where it could be placed as it is not likely to fit entirely on school property. DCR property or private property were discussed for siting of a possible new well. There was some discussion on the length of time that could take. T & B is of the opinion that this is of medium-high risk as quality and quantity of new well water is unknown. The cost would be approximately \$105,000.00 for a new well.

**Repair existing well by re-lining the well:** T & B was of the opinion the this was a high level risk and cost, being approximately \$108,000.00 cost with no guarantee of success.

Time frame:

Design: 4 months

Bidding: 2 months

Contract award: 1 month

Construction: 3 months

If the well is repaired, it could be longer time period as water would have to be turned off and would have to be done when school is not in session.

Questions from both boards regarding the different options. Tim commented that choosing one option may not exclude another.

Wendell leaning towards new well. Discussion on whether the well would be a public water supply. T & B confirmed it would be.

Discussion about testing done when they put the camera down the well, PFAS found at 23" level.

Dan Keller made a motion for a new well.

Carl said time and money was a concern for him and the likely need for an STM in both towns.

Wendell vote in favor: 2-0.

New Salem vote against: 1-1.

Asked that it be on agenda for Sept. 6.

Next topic: cost of apportionment for high needs students. Wendell is expecting a \$195,000 cost for one student in 2023-2024 school year. Such high costs are very sporadic in the school. Wendell is seeking these types of costs to be shared 50-50. Currently costs are per pupil costs per town based on a five year average of numbers. Suggested that both Finance committees weigh in on the issue. Possibility of the question going to next STM for each town.

Motion to adjourn at 8:11 by Hugh, second by Carl. Vote: 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Neal