

## Alton Water District Meeting

October 15, 2013 6:30 PM

St. Thomas Church, Alton

### Minutes

**In attendance:** Geoffrey Marchant, Ellen Corneau, Don Chambers, K. Kasman, Leon Kasman, Lynn Pope, Craig Pope, Ed Ziomek, Marion Ziomek, Mark Baker, Ann Bettinger, Kristen Chambers

#### Agenda:

1. Elect board members
2. Schedule bylaw drafting meetings

Only 1 person filed for a position. Kristen Chambers was elected as clerk. Four more positions need to be filled: moderator, treasurer, assessor, and tax collector. **It was stressed that a full board must be elected in order to be able to apply for funding grants.** The nomination form will again be emailed to all on the AWD email list.

Ellen explained that board meetings would not always need to be in person but can be conducted via email.

Question re: extending voting hours when the ballot item is open to AWD members. Four hour window suggested. Would absentee voting be allowed- possibility through bylaws, but must look into legislation.

Question re: tax collection- District would be self-supporting. Can't require people to sign up. System can be paid for by either user/usage fees (those who are connected to system) or taxes (all within the district). The more households connected to the system, the less likely taxes would be assessed. The district by definition must be a taxing authority in order to be able to borrow money and apply for 40-year loans.

If the district is not going to be self-supporting, there will be no water district.

If someone does not pay their water bill, their water would be cut off.

Question re: the yearly cost to those who hook up- Geoff cited nearby districts- within the past few years the yearly cost per household was approximately \$250. Users are typically billed twice a year: a fixed rate (approximately \$100) at 6 month, then a usage fee at end of year. Shannock District has quarterly bills.

Applying for grants and 40-year loans. Alton did qualify for block grants when an income survey was taken some years ago.

Question re: schedule of water testing and monitoring. Geoff explained that DOH monitors rigorously for drinking water quality the first year for around \$10,000. The amount of testing and price decreases after the first year. There is a difference between DOH monitoring the water quality, and someone monitoring the water system.

Question re: why only certain households had wells tested years ago. Don explained how a geographical map had been used to target households; Steve Levy was involved in testing.

Residents can hook into system at any time as there will be curb stops in front of each household. Wells cannot be hooked into water system; however, if you are hooked up wells can still be used for watering lawns and gardens, washing cars etc.

Don noted that air sparging <http://www.epa.gov/oust/cat/airsparg.htm> is still going on at Charbert to get rid of dry cleaning chemicals. The process can take decades.

He also emphasized that the process of getting the AWD going will be slow. A source of water has not yet been found. AWD business will be out in the open.

Question re: tenants and landlords in neighborhood. Tenants- can't decide to hook up but can vote on membership issues. Non-resident landlords- can make hook up decisions but cannot vote.

Question re: water pressure when system up and running. Geoff explained it will be a pump type system rather than a water tank. Shannock's water enters house at around 40 gallons per minute.

Kristen will resend nomination forms via email. Residents are encouraged to apply as candidates for one of the 4 open positions. Signatures of 5 registered voters who are district residents are needed. Completed forms should be submitted to Kristen at 319 Church St. Date for a subsequent meeting was not set. There will need to be meetings to draft bylaws. Once candidates are nominated, there will need to be a meeting to formally elect. Meeting dates will be emailed to those on the mailing list, and posted as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Chambers

