

Phoenicia Water District Committee
Report to Town Board
February 3, 2025

The Committee met in January 21, with Board members Drake and Kneissl, District Supervisor Rick Ricciardella and Rich Winters from NY Rural Water.

A draft of a resolution meeting to hire a Deputy Supervisor for the Phoenicia Water Dist. was read. Suggestions for changes were thoughtfully made by Winters and Ricciardella, which will be reflected in the version introduced at this meeting.

Required licensure by the County for this position is 2A. The current Supervisor has a 2C license, which was grandfathered in.

In addition to the new position and licensure, Rich Winters said the Phoenicia Water District needs a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), an Emergency Response Plan (ERP), and a Vulnerability Assessment (VA) Rural Water provides templates online. The District needs these in order to be compliant.

Rich Winters also said that testable backflow devices are required on certain types of businesses. Ricciardella said there is one at Gormley funeral parlor, but the Supervisor needs to ask if Gormley is testing. The Supervisor also need to determine what other Phoenicia businesses should have testable backflow devices.

Board members Drake and Kneissl are working on ensuring the Town has keys to all water system buildings, and are checking to see if Fire or Police have appropriate respirators for the water plant on Plank. If they do not, the Committee recommends purchase of respirators by the Town for the water plant. Board members Kneissl and Drake emphasized the importance to the Supervisor of the Town having copies of reports from the County for files. Reports have not been on file at the Town offices for decades.

Ricciardella said a third pump is so urgent at the water plant that a loan might be needed. Winters said that National Rural Water has a Revolving Loan Fund, and that the application is simple Board Member Drake said he believed it pays for 75% of total cost

The Committee's next meeting is February 4 at 10a.m. at the Phoenicia Library. The Committee has invited Kris Craig to talk about the Phoenicia Fire District's urgent need to hydrants repairs in Phoenicia.