



**amended after submission for review, but will not require the community to re-adopt any further iterations. This only applies to this specific plan and does not absolve the community from updating the plan in 5 years.**

**AND MOVE ITS ADOPTION**

Seconded by:DISCLAFANI  
ROLL CALL – 5 AYES

Discussion was held on Police Comm. Members to appoint, Proposed Mountain Jam Event at Belleayre this summer & usage of Phoenicia School for Town Hall purposes.

Meeting adjourned on a Drake/Vanblarcum motion at 1:35

### **Pine Hill Water Project - Update**

Our current meters and monitoring system are out of date and have reached their life expectancy. The Badger water meters that we currently have are rated for 20 years. After that they will become increasingly inaccurate over time. The transponders that talk from the meters to the handheld unit are no longer sending the necessary information to read the meters. Therefore we have to manually, on our hands and knees, uncover in-ground water pits and pull up the meters to read them. There are 167 of these meters, some of which are buried under debris, making it quite the arduous task to retrieve readings. We read meters bi-annually.

The new metering software will also be able to alert us to leaks and pinpoint what we should be looking for to fix the issue. It will cut down times of fixing leaks considerably and hopefully help to avoid interruptions of service and boil water notices. The software also allows for a residential “portal” which will allow residents to read their water consumption in “real time”. This will not only give the resident more control over their usage but hopefully help with bill/usage discrepancies as well. From my understanding, the resident will also be able to get alerts for possible leaks such as a running toilet or a leaky supply line which can, over time, save a good bit of money.

As everyone knows, we have a lack of cell service throughout the hamlet of Pine Hill with only a select few areas that truly are reliable. This leave’s “real time” monitoring in a tricky situation as most of the systems rely on some form of cellular connection to send out data. We have been consulting with a company that has a one of a kind “mesh” system. In this system, the transponders/endpoints transmit data from one meter to the next via radio frequency that ends up getting picked up by a collector and sent out via cell service. These collectors will obviously be in spots with the best connectivity. A coverage analysis has already been performed by this company, at no cost to the town, and has come back stating that their system will indeed work for our unique situation.

We had a coverage analysis performed through a different company and the results weren’t so good. This company relied on a purely cell service reliant system and simply won’t be able to accommodate us. There is another company that is in the process of doing a third coverage analysis with a system that uses radio frequencies to go to collectors on poles, towers or high points of 40’ or above which works similar to an emergency response radio frequency system. We are waiting for that third company to give us their findings before making further decisions. As of today we are still researching alternative systems that are either cheaper or provide better benefits.

We did receive a quote for all meters and endpoints to be replaced with labor, the monitoring software, annual fees, project management costs, and extra on-hand meters and endpoints. The quote we received was roughly \$160,000. We have been in contact with the New York Rural Water Association which gives out a low interest loan of \$200,000 or 75% of the whole project cost. We would be responsible for the other 25% which we could get from the Pine Hill Water capital reserve fund. Grants may be obtainable through the Environmental Facilities Corporation and the New York State board of Health which we are investigating as well. I believe their fiscal year starts in October. We were informed that some of these grants

can be applied retroactively as well so as not to hinder the progress of the project's start date. Of course certain criteria have to be met to do this but it is still a possibility.

I think I can speak for the entire board when I say that we want to keep water interruptions, boil notices, and/or leaks to a bare minimum. I truly believe a new metering system will greatly assist with this goal and give us better tools to fix any undesirable situations that may occur. The idea of the Pine Hill Water project was thought of with the best intentions to serve the residents of Pine Hill and provide them with the most efficient and highest quality of water distribution possible.

I thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this process. Hopefully I have cleared up some questions with this explanation. I truly believe transparency and communication are necessary for projects to be completed in the correct manner. If anyone has any more questions we will be setting a date to have an informational meeting at the Pine Hill Community Center where residents can ask questions directly and we can outline our intent and strategy in-person. Also feel free to contact me directly via e-mail.

**Kyle R. Steen**

**Shandaken Town Board Member**

**Pine Hill Water liaison**

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