



Emerald Lake Village District

Hillsborough, New Hampshire, 03244

ELVD Workshop Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Attendees

Brett Taber, *Chairman of Commissioners (In Person)*

Steve Criner, *Commissioner (In Person)*

Debbie Kardaseski, *Treasurer (In Person)*

Rick Rose, *Clerk (In Person)*

Eileen Feindel, *Office Manager (In Person)*

ELVD Residents

Melissa Taber, Joseph Feindel, Don Johnson, George Pollinger, Sara Auger and Jim Calfrik.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Taber and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Chair Taber opened the meeting up for public discussion/comment:

Resident Sara Auger opened her discussion with the problem of the district's drinking water and the water ban itself. She has had discussions with both WSO and DES.

The district has still not made a definitive decision on the water ban other than it **HAS NOT** been lifted, even though DES lifted it. The signs for the water ban are still posted throughout the district. We are still in the early stages of the Asset Management Program and try to understand all the impacts and working with DES for opportunities to have the ban modified. We still need more information to make a more informative decision.

We are working with DES (Department of Environmental Services) and RCAP Solutions (a government funded municipal assisting organization) at no cost to us, to install a system called CUPS (a data monitoring system).

We got approved for a grant from the state to provide \$20,000 when we also spend \$20,000. DES and RCAP Solutions rely on CUPS data to assist us with any grants and/or loans.

The topic changed to the failure of reporting to the residents the situation of arsenic and fluoride in the drinking water. Water notices were posted on the website but are also supposed to be mailed and haven't been in the past. We took as much as action and as fast as we could. Us having a District Administrator (an open position) would have helped alleviate the late nature of the notifications/mailings.

Chair Taber had a conversation with David Gordon, from the state, who is the contact for arsenic notification. There is a difference between a chronic and an acute risk. Over a 70 year standard, if you were to consume 2 liters of water every day for 70 years then you would reach the added risk threshold of cancer and/or other ailments. The arsenic level is tested quarterly. The August and November testings were less than the .001 level the state recognizes. The January testing was at .0015 reading. At that point it started to show an increase. We didn't become aware of this reading until May 29th. That day, Chair Taber had a meeting with WSO to learn more about the system. Our main concern at this point is get values to where they're supposed to be. Accountability for this issue does lie with WSO, but since they are not under contract, it is difficult to place that accountability.

As far as the filtration goes, the current plan is to get the levels back. The arsenic is treated through a filtration media and has failed and needs to be replaced. WSO has been asked for a quote for the labor to do that.

We contacted DES immediately to assess if prompt action needed to take place. Because it wasn't an acute risk, we were told there was no immediate need to stop the use of water or that well and had a discussion of future processes that can be more effective. Every one of our wells has a naturally occurring level of arsenic. The wells at Patten Hill are blended so by volume it's diluted and are below the acceptable level. If/when the state moves forward with reducing the threshold (in 2021) it will cause a more aggressive treatment plan and cost, as well.

The volume of water we have coming through the treatment system, which can take up to 200 to 250 gallons per hour, is about 25 to 30 gallons per hour. The system has not had a failure in 9 years which may explain why the media has lasted so long.

As far as the fluoride, we had the failure and notification in February. Notification was placed on the website in March, but the mailing of notifications didn't go out. After the May 13th meeting, we were notified the CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) needed to be distributed. We decided to send out both the arsenic and fluoride notices all at once, so we'd be current with the state and the residents of the district.

The topic switched to the testing (which occurs after filtration) of the lake water. Testing the lake was not part of the Volunteer Program. However, we have picked up the first round of

sample bottles to be part of the Volunteer Program. Basically, the testing is done once a month during the Summer months. Historical data has shown that Emerald Lake has been a very clean lake. When testing occurs, we find out the results within 24 hours. The two concerns we have is fecal matter (from geese) and do we have a lot of septic close to the water. Historically, we haven't had any issue of septic leakage. At times, when there have been severe rains in the past, this may cause an issue. Second, is how well the beaches are kept up. Joe Feindel is the person (under contract) to make sure the beaches are kept clean. Dog beach is one beach that needs to be maintained to a higher standard.

OLD BUSINESS:

* First item is the review of meeting minutes from 5/30 and 6/6.

* From the 5/30 minutes there are two corrections, WSO portion of the meeting Brett Taber was addressed as Chief and not Chair.

And near the end of the report mentioning the cost of mailings, the internal cost was actually \$500 total, not \$850. Motion made by Chair Taber to accept these minutes as amended, Commissioner Criner seconded. Motion passed

For the 6/6 meetings, the last paragraph where it mentions a private session. This only occurred as a discussion, not an actual motion made to do so. Discussion was how the upcoming session will be used for the interviewing process.

Chair Taber made a motion to accept the minutes with said correction. Commissioner Criner seconded. Motion passed.

* Next item for review was any changes to the WSO quotes for maintenance projects as approved in the 2019 annual meeting and noted in the May 30th and June 6th workshops. Chair Taber did receive quotes back from WSO with a bit more itemization. There is a quote for the media replacement to support the arsenic improvement. There's a quote for the PH probe and monitor replacement (estimated at \$1500) and the main flow meter replacement (estimated at \$12,000) and an additional quote for the two tank valves on top of the canisters for the arsenic tanks and one for the PLC control system and one for the Turtle Bridge meter pit and installation.

The values are still at or almost equal to the value allocated at the annual meeting, but with more of the details we asked from them. Chair Taber did have additional concerns.

The media replacement needs to be dealt with first. We need to move one head that's working to the other tank so they can put that online and change the media out for the alternate tank, the one that failed.

The replacement of the two valves, has a quote for approximately \$4800 per valve. Labor would be about 4 hours. Chair Taber did research online and found, by description, the

same valves 50% cheaper. He had a conversation with another water system operator company and they offered a third of the quoted cost including shipping.

Chair Taber has a meeting with the other company representative to look at the valves and determine if they're the correct ones and at the best price to be able to move forward.

Attendee Jim Calfrik asked about some of the repairs that need to be done and suggested that all of the equipment could be re-built. He also suggested that he could do it as he has 40 years of experience.

Commissioner Criner made a motion for the three immediate repairs that need to be done: media replacement, control valves for the arsenic tanks and PH monitor. The other three will be addressed in another meeting. Chair Taber seconded. Motion passed.

* Next item was to review quote for pump replacement of well #6 at Patten Hill. We are still waiting on Mr. Plummer. Since this pump has not been working for several months, we will be reviewing the cost of electricity, as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

* First item was about the road dust, and communication with Skip Edwards, acknowledged the need for calcium chloride and waiting for the balance of the gravel to be laid out. He is almost done with that process.

* Huntington Drive resident inquired about their culvert and their roadside drainage. Culvert is basically below ground level. Skip was asked to look at the issue and provide an alternate approach. Waiting for that feedback.

* Inquiry from a couple of realtors about the current water conditions that impact property so Chair Taber shared with the same information as the residents have now been made aware of at this time.

* The matter of a resident hookup (attendee George Pollinger) and the hookup fee (which must be paid upfront) of \$10,000. It's basically a hookup fee to the system and all the fees associated from the curb to the home. The setup is approved through WSO by making sure all the piping and hookup requirements are to standard. Motion was made by Chair Taber and seconded by Commissioner Criner getting the order out to make sure Mr. Pollinger's lot is hooked up. Motion passed.

Meters (DES requirement) are not ready to be hooked up at this point. We do not know what kind of meter will be needed. There was a CIP fund started towards the water meter program. Names of salesmen have been provided to gain more knowledge of meters and the potential costs for them so residents can be made aware as this program progresses.

Right now our biggest focus is our water treatment center and leak protection, which ultimately increases our capacity.

* Next topic brought up was the bridge. We gave Wright-Pierce (engineering company) the go ahead to start the scope of work and to handle the bidding for us.

* Volunteer activity status from prior week:

Notice was sent out 2-3 days prior to activities to work on the new electrical building (needed painting), some of the picnic tables needed boards replaced and to be painted and to tend to a downed tree at the Patten Hill pump area. All of these activities have been completed.

* The state was given us our pre-application submission. Wright-Pierce helped us with this process and needed two more pieces of information which was sent back to them today (6/13/19) and will be sent back to the state in time for the 6/15/2019 deadline. Showing intent will be advantageous to the district in the future.

Next stage presented by WSO: some of the piping in areas that need to be replaced such as Turtle Bridge, Sunrise Place and the Midnight walk area to complete that loop with a 4 inch main. This particular area over the years has had the most leaks. The monitoring pit is also going in that area. The estimate they have provided is just under \$300,000. Hopefully, we'll be provided loan forgiveness and any type of grant an if we qualify, would come off that directly. Also, we'll be looking for options on how to further reduce that debt. A lot of long range planning will take place in regards to how long the loan will be for and paying off two debts at the same time, hopefully, within 5 years.

Commissioner Criner has been looking into debt consolidation (with banks) for the district. The loan Chair Taber was speaking of has mostly been paid off and has, mostly, only principal payments left. The other loan we have is \$1.6 million which was for the main loop around the district replaced in 2014. We are paying a lot for interest and administration fees.

* Next was looking at the tickler file. For June, we need to move funds (50%) to the CIP buckets, as needed, approved at the annual meeting. Chair Taber made a motion to transfer the capital reserve (roads and bridges) funds in the amount of \$50,000. Commissioner Criner seconded the motion. Motion passed. For the water fund, Chair Taber made the motion to transfer \$30,000, Commissioner Criner seconded, motion passed.

* Commissioner Criner inquired if we got the insurance binder from WSO. We did receive that document dated June 2019 and is good until February 2020.

* One more item, with Powers Generator, during the winter at the Hummingbird well a tree damaged (dented) the generator enclosure. In April, the district paid a deposit of \$637.11 for repairs. Powers called to set up that appointment. Commissioner Criner will have Megan Criner assess the damage as generators are her expertise. Further research is needed to determine what the scope of the contract is that we have with Powers.

Last item(s) to address was the payment of the bills (current and future) which took the last twenty nine minutes of the meeting.

Next scheduled meeting will be a Commissioner meeting on June 20, 2019 @ 7:00 pm at the ELVD office.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm with Chair Taber's motion, Commissioner Criner seconding that motion, motion passed.

Regards,

Rick Rose, *ELVD Clerk*

Approved by:

Brett Taber, *Commissioner (Chair)*

Steve Criner, *Commissioner*