



**EMERALD LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT**  
HILLSBOROUGH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 03244  
2019 Annual Meeting: April 20, 2019

**PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE DISTRICT:**

Commissioner: Diane Cunningham, unable to attend

Commissioner: Linda Whiting

Commissioner: Debbie Kardaseski

Treasurer: Jessica Vitkauskas, unable to attend

Clerk: Kim Grondin

Moderator: Kate Boyd-Martone

Legal Counsel: Justin Richardson of Upton & Hatfield

To the inhabitants of the Emerald Lake Village District, located within the Town of Hillsborough, County of Hillsborough in said State, qualified to vote in District affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet in the Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School Gym, located on Hillcat Drive, Hillsborough, NH on Saturday, the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. Balloting on Article One, election of officers will take place between ten o'clock and noon. Articles two through fourteen will begin at 12:30 p.m., at the same location.

**ANNUAL REPORT COPIES WITH ADDITIONAL HANDOUTS PROVIDED TO ALL VOTING RESIDENTS.**

Moderator Kate Boyd-Martone opened the meeting at 12:32 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance along with 36 residents at the meeting to vote; along with 4 residents on the board for a total of 40 residents. Moderator Kate Boyd-Martone states "If everyone can sign in and mark your attendance for the meeting. When I get started on the warrant articles, please make sure that when you come up to speak, that you state your name prior to speaking.

Good Afternoon Everyone and welcome to the ELVD annual meeting. My name is Kate Boyd-Martone and I will serve you as moderator of today's process. You may recognize me, as I was a previous member of the commissioners' board. The local annual meeting is a wonderful tradition and I would like to thank each and every one of you for taking time out of your weekend to vote, as you are truly able to make a difference in our community through this process. I would also like to thank our elected and appointed officials for their hard work throughout this year, as keeping ELVD running is no small task. I would like to formally introduce everyone who is on the board, absent today is Diane Cunningham, Chairman and Treasurer Jessica Vitkauskas; Linda Whiting and Debbie Kardaseski, both commissioners, and our clerk Kim Grondin; as well as our ELVD lawyer Justin Richardson. I would also like to thank the Supervisors of the Checklist. If there is anyone who is not a voter that is present, I

ask that you sit towards the back or off to the side. Please if you have not done so already and you are a voter, go over to the Supervisors and get a voter sticker. Just to go over some rules: speak your name if you are going to speak and be respectful and cognitive of the time.”

**Article 1:**

To choose one Commissioner for a three-year term; one Moderator for a one-year term; one Clerk for a one-year term; and one Treasurer for a one-year term. *(To be voted on by Official Ballot.)*

Pursuant to Article 1, and under supervision of the Election Officers, the voting was as follows:

These results were announced.

**District Commissioner for three-year term:** Congratulations Steve Criner (write in 28 votes) with Debbie Kardaseski receiving 22 votes.

**District Treasurer for one-year term:** Congratulations Debbie Kardaseski (write in: 10 votes) with Mark Rodier receiving 1 vote, Melissa Taber receiving 1 vote, Keith Huber receiving 1 vote, Steven Criner receiving 7 votes, Megan Criner receiving 1 vote, and Jessica Vitkauskas receiving 3 votes.

**District Clerk for one-year term:** Congratulations Kim Grondin (write in: 18 votes) with Debbie Kardaseski receiving 3 votes and Joanne Staples receiving 1 vote.

**District Moderator for one-year term:** Congratulations Kate Boyd-Martone (write in: 11 votes) Kim Grondin receiving 1 vote, Martha Caron receiving 1 vote, Brett Taber receiving 1 vote, Steve Criner receiving 3 votes, Janice Howe receiving 1 vote, Joe Feindel receiving 1 vote, and Debbie Kardaseski receiving 2 votes.

**Article 2:**

To hear the reports of the Village District Officers, Auditors, Agents, Committees or other Officers heretofore chosen or appointed; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Kate Boyd-Martone, Moderator asked for a motion to move the article to the floor.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner accepted, Commissioner Linda Whiting seconded the motion.

Kate Boyd-Martone, Moderator asks if there is anyone who would like to speak about this article.

Moderator Kate Boyd-Martone closes discussion, as there are no questions or concerns.

Article 2 passed with 28 in favor.

**Article 3:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TEN DOLLARS (\$188,110) for the operating expenses of the District, including General Government, Streets, Bridges, and Recreation, Operating Transfers Out, and all other current expenses of the District for 2019, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners)*

Moderator asks for a motion to move the article to the floor.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner accepted, Commissioner Linda Whiting seconded the motion.

Moderator asks if there is anyone who would like to speak about this article.

Joanne Staples, resident asks what the general government and operating budget entails that costs \$2.40. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner explains that the general budget is broken down on pages 6 & 7 of the annual report and the water budget is on pages 8 & 9.

Moderator closed discussion, as there are no more questions or concerns.

Article 3 passed with 32 in favor.

**Article 4:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of THREE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-TWO DOLLARS (\$316,892) for the purpose of operating the Water Department during 2019, including debt services, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately. Said funds to be offset by the income to the Water Department. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners)*

Moderator asks for a motion to move the article to the floor.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner accepted, Commissioner Linda Whiting seconded the motion.

Moderator asks if there is anyone who would like to speak about this article.

Richard Whiting, resident would like a simple definition of debt services. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states it's the two bonds that ELVD currently owes on, one for the water tank and one for the water mains around the lake.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states she would like to clarify from the previous general government budget question; where it shows \$2.42, but the final tax rate for general government is \$2.85. Moderator thanked her for the clarification.

Chris Reed, resident asks if the tax rate is per thousand of the value or a flat rate. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states the property tax rate impact is based on the net assessed value of the entire district.

Joanne Staples, resident asks for clarification for the \$2.85. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner explains that comes from the fourth line on our tax bill, which is the ELVD tax.

Brett Taber, resident states "you are sharing with us that the new tax rate is \$2.85 but if I do the math correctly, it equals to \$2.40." Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states the \$2.40 will be the tax rate if the 35,000 into the reserve fund is voted down. The \$2.85 includes that 35,000 deposit if it passes.

Moderator closes the discussion, as there are no more questions or concerns.

Article 4 passed with 34 in favor.

**Article 5:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$35,000.00) to be added to the Roads and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund already established.  
*(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator asks for a motion to move the article to the floor.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner accepted, Commissioner Linda Whiting seconded the motion.

Moderator asks if there is anyone who would like to speak about this article.

Brett Taber, resident states "as many of us are aware, we have current road issues, Red Fox Crossing bridge and if you look at the warrant articles, there is \$125,000 currently in the capital reserve fund. This \$35,000 will bring us to \$160,000. Commissioners are still waiting to get quotes from various companies and, with production, we are still looking at the bridge being closed for eighteen months. So, based on this, we have a choice, if this is approved, it will not be enough to cover the bridge repair until the next annual meeting to appropriate additional funds. I just want to share this with you for thought."

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "we looked at the \$35,000 that was originally intended to be deposited into the Roads and Bridges CIP fund. When these warrant articles and budget were put together, it was before we knew we had to close the bridge. We knew it had to be replaced but we didn't plan on having to have it replaced so soon. I would like to, once the article has been moved, I would like to make a motion to increase that deposit to 50,000. The rational for that, is this: as Mr. Taber had stated 35,000 is not going to go very far toward buying a bridge. We have received one price for a bridge, and we will also be advertising in the paper on Monday accepting bids for the replacement bridge. These bids will close May 15, 2019. So hopefully by the end of May, we can make a decision and get going on that. Please keep in mind, that doesn't mean we are going to see a bridge this year, as the permitting process alone takes three to four months but there is no reason that we can't start that this year, so that next spring, the bridge can be replaced and done quickly. I do understand that this is a major hassle for a lot of people but there is not enough money in the CIP fund right now to build a bridge. If we can increase it to \$50,000 this year and another \$50,000 next year, when that bridge goes in next year, we can pay cash for it and not have to borrow any more money. This is from looking at the prices that we have received thus far. I think it would be a wise move, so we can pay the \$35,000 this year and more next year. Are there any questions on that?"

Michael Brown, resident asks what type of bridge the commissioners are looking at. Michael Brown, resident, "I am not worried about the funds, as I agree to increase the funds but how much is a steel bridge versus a cement bridge and how much is that going to impact the decision by the commissioners?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner responds that currently ELVD only has one quote so far for the amount of \$206,000 (which includes everything) but ELVD is waiting on another quote from Michie Corporation, out of Henniker, NH; as well as the new bids that will come in. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner explains the different type of bridges that they are looking at.

Steve Criner, resident states "if you go to page 9, line 60, you will see what we pay just in interest. Going from \$35,000 to \$50,000 may seem like a lot, but in my humble opinion, it may be better to take the bite now, so we all aren't paying for it for years to come. \$20,000 is a lot in interest and the repayment administrative fees is an additional \$26,000, so that is my two cents."

Richard Whiting, resident asks “as I understand it, if we did have Michie Corp put in the bridge, then we would have to have Skippy fill it in afterwards, is that correct?” Linda Whiting, Commissioner states “yes.” Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “Michie Corp provides the precast concrete only so we will have to get additional pricing for all of the site work; as well as a crane to set the bridge. There are other people that do this kind of work and if we can get a different company to do it for less than what Skippy will charge, than that is what we will do but Skippy will obviously be able to bid on the job. This is outside of Skippy’s scope of work and is not included in his contract.”

Joanne Staples, resident asks “I guess the big question is, how much can the district taxpayers afford to pay, whether we pay it now or later? We have the other bonds that we are paying on and there are many many years to go before those are paid off, which we are already paying on those through our taxes. So, the question is, how much more will the \$50,000, plus taxes, another \$50,000 next year, everything is going up. It keeps going up between the town and the district and it doesn’t seem we are getting anywhere; except further and further in debt. We spent \$10,000 for that bridge and for what, 2 months? Linda Whiting, Commissioner states it was \$5,000 for four months. Joanne Staples, resident replies, that’s \$1000 a month.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “what the residents of ELVD have to look at is this development was originally put in “on the cheap.” Because everything was not taken care of the way it should have been through the years, we are dealing with a water system and bridges that are falling apart every day. I understand that no one wants to see their taxes go up, whether you are working full time or on Social Security, we are all on a fixed income; we cannot tell our bosses that we need a raise because of taxes. But we must maintain our water system, we must fix the bridge and we can’t do it “on the cheap,” it has to be fixed. I know it’s a lot of money, but the bigger inconvenience would be if we leave it open and someone goes over, and we will be under a big lawsuit.”

Bob Hansen, resident states “this goes beyond an ELVD issue and has become a public safety issue. The fire and police need to respond in a timely manner; instead of going all around the lake. For me, the biggest priority is public safety, as there are a lot of people that live on the other side, that the police and fire need to respond to in a matter of minutes; rather than going all the way around. I feel \$50,000 is minimal for what it is going to be in the big scope of the safety and convenience for our residents.”

Nan McCarthy, resident states “I have lived here for 35 years and believe me, I have seen it all. What started out as a vacation community and when I moved into my house, I had to make it year-round. The water system was bad from the beginning and we just kept fixing leaks, fixing leaks. We have just limped around all these issues. I don’t want my taxes raised either, but we are now currently at the point where we need to buckle down and get things moving. The water is ridiculous at this point and now we have added the bridge, which was unfortunate, but those things happen, and we are getting to the point of no return.”

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “just to clarify, it is not a \$50,000 increase, it is a \$15,000 increase, which is an additional .19 per thousand. As the warrant article stands right now \$35,000 is what has been being placed into the CIP fund.”

Brett Taber, resident states “thank you Debbie for pointing that out. I would like to clarify that the bond value that was mentioned that we are currently paying for does not come from the tax rate but from the water bill and that there is a separate payment on that.”

Mark Rodier, resident states “I don’t know about you all, but I think we should do it all and put the other half to what we already have. We can start the ball now, get the permits now it can be done for next year. I don’t know when the next taxes come out... Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies “I think it will be the fall bill” so if we were to vote today for the other half of what we already have, is that something that we could do?” Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “you folks can raise as much money as you want today, but I just want to remind you that the commissioners did not put that in the budget, but it is up to all the residents. If you want to stash away a good size chunk of money this year, so that we know that we will have enough next year, that is your prerogative, but it will show up on the November bill.”

(a little bit of discussion amongst residents)

Richard Whiting, resident states “we have to look at it as money vs lawsuit. \$200,000 vs millions in a lawsuit.”

Denise Forest, resident would like to know how much we have in the budget now. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “currently ELVD has \$125,977.87 and if we add \$50,000 next year, it will bring it to \$175,000 and the following year to \$245,000. Now you can decide what you want to amend that figure from, leave it at \$35000, go to \$50,000 or \$75000 but that is up to you folks.” Mark Rodier, resident asks, “if we do the 50 and then 50, the bridge wouldn’t be done till the following year?” Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies “pretty much, my hope would be that we can tell them this summer and at least get the engineering done but the attorney pointed out to me that we cannot commit to anything that we don’t have the money for.”  
(inaudible)

Rhayna Teich, resident states “I am very affected by the bridge. It is very scary to think that I cannot get an ambulance, if I need one. Now, I am in pretty good health and I’m not saying that I am dying right now but however there are other people that might not be doing as well. I understand that the school taxes have gone up, unfortunately I retired before I got that raise but I would like to see this move forward as quickly as possible, even with the tax increase, not because I am dying to pay it but because it is necessary. It is not going to get any better, until we do something.”

Keith Huber, resident states “I have heard all the talk about public safety, what was done in the past, tax rates but in reality, we have no numbers. We don’t know what money is available out there and we are asking for money for something that we don’t know what the cost will be. I think until we have a solid number at what we are looking at, we should just leave it as it is.” Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner reply’s “we do have one number from Hansen Bridge, which includes everything, from New London. At this point, there is no FEMA money available for this bridge because the governor never declared a state of emergency for NH, there is no FEMA money, so we either do it on our own or we start an even lengthier process of trying to get bond money. I personally would rather just pay cash, so that we don’t get tied up into another bond because we are going to have huge bonds coming down the pike, when we have to bite the bullet and fix the water system and that is not going to be cheap. I feel we will be further ahead of the game, if we pay cash for anything, we can pay cash for.

We also need to look into increasing our Capital Reserve deposit for the water system, as \$60,000 is nothing compared to what we have to do.”

Martha Caron, resident states “Martha Caron, 19 Hummingbird Lane hereby make a motion to amend article 5, as to the amount thereof to \$100,000 to fund us to a point, we can still represent a short-fall but hopefully based on discussion, it will be a minimal short-fall for April 20, 2019.” Mark Rodier, resident seconded the motion.

Kate Boyd-Martone, Moderator asks “all those in favor of the motion as amended.” Resident had asked for it to be read back.

**Amended Article 5:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$100,000.00) to be added to the Roads and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund already established. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Kate Boyd-Martone, Moderator states “this \$100,000 would represent a short-fall as mentioned but it would be a minimal short-fall, by the understanding of the numbers currently. This is with a little bit of “wishy-washy” depending on what we get; although we do have one estimate that gives us an idea.”

Article 5 was passed with 30 votes in favor.

Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer states “the way you read the vote was asking for a motion to be amended. That is not the only way you could have done it; you could have had a vote on whether to amend it because there was originally to pass as written but either way was fine.” He was thanked for his input.

**Article 6:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$60,000.00) to be added to the Water System Capital Reserve Fund already established for the purpose of continuing replacing mains, distribution lines, and other water infrastructure, said sum to be offset by the water user fees to the Water Department. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator asks for a motion to move the article to the floor.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner accepted, Commissioner Linda Whiting seconded the motion.

Moderator asked if anyone would like to speak on this article.

Article 6 passes with 33 in favor.

**Article 7:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$9,000.00) to be used to purchase and install a Zone Meter at the intersection of Turtle Bridge Crossing and Gould Pond Road. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator asked if anyone would like to speak on this article.

Martha Caron, resident is seeking some clarification on the source of the device. Linda Whiting, Commissioner replies "it measures a larger area (inaudible)." Martha Caron, resident states "maybe I wasn't clear, I am aware of what it does but the question is, what is the source of the device, is it a repair, is it a capital improvement and/or will we be now having a third, to where we will have to vote on every single repair and item? I am not understanding how we are treating this and why we are treating it as a separate article? I'm not against it but I am trying to understand how the money is going to be generated for separate items versus coming out of the reserve?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies "the next four items are in the warrant articles because they are fairly substantial expenses that, number one, if we put them in the water budget, people wouldn't get to see what we were doing for improvements and we are starting to do improvements, which the next four warrant articles show. I know that the current sentiment is that "oh my god, our water bills are going to go up" but they are not. There is enough money in the water account that all four of these items can be paid for and not effect your water bill. Last year, as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, there was \$272,574 left in the water checking account and if we take the next four warrant articles out of that account, we will still have \$226,574 in the account, so it will not affect your water bill. It was handled this way for transparency, so everyone knows what we are spending the money on and now you know where it is coming from, so this will not affect your water bill, nor your taxes." Martha Caron, resident asks "how is it getting paid for, if its not coming out of the water bill or the taxes?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies "it is coming out of what is left in the water checking account." Martha Caron, resident states "so this article is not to raise new money, it is to authorize the expenditure from an existing fund. So bottom line is, these next few articles are already paid for and we are not raising new money?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies "yes."

Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer states "I would like to clarify that you do have to use the words raise and appropriate because you are going to be spending money for this particular purpose. I understand and agree with you and your explanation that you can simply not increase the rates and just spend down the balance on the water budget, which has a surplus in it. One thing that people should be aware of is that because this is stated as a separate purpose of appropriation, if this article does not pass in the sum amount, then you cannot spend any funds on it. There is a "no means no" law that passed about 10 years ago in the RSA's, so you have to pass this sum amount, which will allow you to proceed with it, but it will not increase the rates here because the source is coming from the water fund, but without increasing rates." Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer was thanked for his input.

Brett Taber, resident asks "so you are sharing with us that the word appropriate should it not be actually to extend money from a particular fund to cover?" Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer replies "by law, it can only come from the water fund/budget that you pass. This will go into the water budget, but the commissioners set the rates separately, so if they don't increase the rates, the balance in the fund that the district already has goes down, which is what is happening here. You are voting to authorize spending the money and the rates are going to get set after the meeting is over." Brett Taber, resident reply's "so you would not change the wording?" Justin Richardson, Lawyer, reply's "if you take raise and appropriate out, you will not be allowed to spend any money out of this. The DRA would reject the final vote and not allow you to spend money. Its like when you get a grant, you have to vote to raise/appropriate the whole amount, even if the grant is for 100% of it, you have to vote to authorize it to be raised and spent." Brett Taber, resident thanked him for the explanation.

Moderator asked if there was a motion to move the article.

Melissa Taber, resident made the motion to the article and Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner seconded.

Article 7 passed with 35 in favor.

**Article 8:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15,000.00) to be used to purchase and install a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System at Meeting House Treatment Center and the Mary Rowe Well. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator ask if there was anyone who would like to speak on this article.

Chris Reed, resident asked what the SCADA would be used for. Mark Rodier, resident states the SCADA is something that WSO can use to analyze flow rates of the water, control chemicals, as well as alert them of any major leaks and believes it can be synced to WSO phones, so they would be alerted right away, even at their homes. Linda Whiting, Commissioner thanked Mark Rodier, resident.

Denise Forest, resident asked if this is an improvement or are we replacing a broken one. Mark Rodier, resident states that ELVD doesn't have one, so it will be an improvement.

Robert Hansen, resident asked where the well is located on Mary Rowe. Mark Rodier, resident states "if you turn on Mary Rowe, going towards town, it is on the left across from the drug house."

Joanne Staples, resident asked what area the SCADA would be used for. Mark Rodier, resident states it would be for the treatment center, which monitors the Mary Rowe well and Meetinghouse well. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner thanked Mark Rodier, resident.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner moved the article and Martha Caron, resident seconded.

Article 8 passes with 35 in favor.

**Article 9:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$10,000.00) to be used to purchase and install two tank control valve filters at the Meeting House Treatment Center. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required*

Moderator asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on this article.

Mark Rodier, resident asked if the commissioners know if WSO is planning on reversing the flow at the treatment center; as it has been talked about before. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that is part of the plan, if this article passes.

Melissa Taber, resident would like to know if the rusty eyewash station that is placed there, going to be replaced also; as it is a safety issue. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that the price is low enough for this to be in

the budget. The pH monitor had been ordered and replaced; but is not sure if the eyewash stations have been ordered. Melissa Taber, resident asks her to follow-up on that.

Richard Whiting, resident asks what the tank control valve will be filtering. Mark Rodier, resident states that he believes it filters the chloride and arsenic.

Moderator asked if there was a motion for this article. Steve Criner, resident made a motion for the article and Melissa Taber, resident seconded.

Article 9 passed with 36 in favor.

**Article 10:**

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$12,000.00) to be used to purchase and install the main distribution flow meter at the Meeting House Treatment Center. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator asked if anyone would like to speak on the article.

Moderator asked if there was a motion to move the article.

Steve Criner motioned the article and Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner seconded.

Article 10 passed with 35 in favor.

**Article 11:**

To see if the Village District will vote to appoint the Village District Commissioners as agents to expend from the "Repair and Replace Roads and Bridges" Fund previously established in 2016. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator states "I would like to add that Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer did clarify earlier that when this was amended in 2016 to add the word bridges, the commissioners were already acting as agents. So not passing this, could be viewed that we are not allowing the commissioners to be agents of something that they are already agents of."

Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer states "this is just because the DRA said they wanted it, it wasn't legally required but instead being punished for listening to the DRA back in 2016 when you were already agents, and now you did what they asked you to do by adding the word bridges to the name of the fund. When you did that, they said "oh well you didn't rename the commissioners as agents again," which they didn't ask you to do and now we have to rename it all."

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "if we do not name the commissioners agents, we would have to have a special meeting to build the bridge."

Keith Huber, resident asked if this was the Road and Bridges CIP. The reply was yes.

Moderator asked for a motion to move the article.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner moved the article and Mark Rodier, resident seconded.

Article 11 passed with 36 in favor.

**Article 12:**

To see if the Village District will vote to discontinue the “Acquire or Construct District Meeting House with Offices” Fund created in 2013. Said funds, with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the District’s general fund. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator asked if there was anyone who would like to speak on this article.

Mark Rodier, resident asked how much money was in this account. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner stated \$20,270.58.

Joanne Staples, resident asked if the money needs to go into the general fund. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “yes it does because when money is in a capital improvement fund and the funds are discontinued, it has to go into the general fund first. The first thing that we need to do is get it into the general fund.”

Mark Rodier, resident asked if there have been any thoughts about having an office in the district, in the future. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states the expense, liability, and water issues are too much to think about that right now.

Moderator asked for a motion for the article.

Steve Criner, resident moved the motion and Richard Whiting, resident seconded.

Article 12 passed with 37 in favor.

**Article 13:**

To see if the Village District will vote to appropriate TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$20,000) to be used as matching funds for an “Asset Management Grant.” Said funds to come from unassigned fund balance. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.*

Moderator asked if anyone would like to speak on this article.

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states “this Asset Management Grant will total \$40,000 and they are going to do a complete survey of our water system and evaluate everything, so we can prioritize what needs to be done first. Part of the Asset Management Grant, I think, will help us towards saving funds in the future. We need to have this done before we can go after any federal funding. The \$20,000 that just came out of the meetinghouse fund and they will match. The other thing we can do is help and whatever we do and keep track of it, it will help towards that \$20,000.”

Melissa Taber, resident asked if the deck being built at the pumphouse count towards that. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that she is not sure but will look into that.

Keith Huber, resident asked if we already received the grant. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that ELVD has been approved for the grant but is contingent on the remaining \$20,000 that we are voting on.

Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer asks moderator if he could speak on this. Justin Richardson, ELVD Lawyer states “we have talked about this before and what the budget law requires is gross basis budgeting and when I heard your commissioner explain this and that the total cost of project is \$40,000, grant for \$20,000 and then the other \$20,000 is what you just voted to discontinue, so you need to change this article to say \$40,000. It will not impact the tax rate, but the problem is when you say raise and appropriate \$20,000, that says the most you can spend is \$20,000; unless you take it from somewhere else. So, if you want this to have no effect with taking the \$20,000 grant, you must change it to say raise and appropriate \$40,000.”

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner makes a motion to amend Article 13 to read: To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate FOURTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$40,000) to be used for an “Asset Management Grant.” Twenty thousand dollars to come from unassigned fund balance and twenty thousand dollars to come from a grant. *(Recommended by the Village District Commissioners) Majority vote required.* Mark Rodier, resident seconded the motion.

Moderator asked for all those in favor of the amended article 13.

Article 13 passed with 35 in favor.

**Article 14:**

To transact any other business that may legally come before the Village District Meeting.

Moderator asked if anyone would like to speak on this article.

Doug Ireland, resident asked if there was anyway to do some sort of temporary bridge to the Red Fox Crossing Bridge because this will be a long year and half. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner respond “we cannot because if we open the bridge after several engineers have told us to close it, should we have to go with government money, we will not be eligible, which is in the fine print. The other issue is, if we open the bridge and someone goes through or off the bridge, they are going to own this district and I am not comfortable with that.”

Mark Rodier, resident states “there is a 26 by 26 concrete pad underneath and then covered in dirt. If you put a concrete wall along the side to protect the guardrails because the guardrails are not even connected. A concrete wall will restrict the flow, make people slow down, and you’re not going to drive through a concrete wall. Linda Whiting, Commissioner states the problem with that is that the bridge is showing signs of the gravel moving around the culvert. Mark Rodier, resident states “because Skippy did not do what he was told to do.”

Martha Caron, resident states that ELVD would have to get at least one engineer to sign off on it. Robert Hansen states “no engineer is going to put their license on the line for that.”

Melissa Taber, resident states she would rather go around, then spend more money on a temporary bridge.

Chris Reed, resident asks if we can just have it open for emergency vehicles. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies, "no because if we open that bridge, short of having somebody stand there, there is no way we can monitor it and we can't risk a lawsuit." Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that she has informed emergency facilities of the bridge being closed, so they are aware.

Susan Ireland, resident asks why the repairs that Wright Pierce Engineers told ELVD to do were not completed, for the bridge to last till 2020. Linda Whiting, Commissioner states "we wanted it to be repaired. I spoke with Skippy about it and states the Skippy said the way we have it, it will last. Then DOT came down here with seven engineers to inspect the bridge and all of them said the same thing, in that it is falling apart." Tricia Stefanelli, resident states "I don't think that answered the question." Susan Ireland, resident states "no it wasn't, and I don't understand why we didn't do what Wright Pierce Engineers told us to do, to keep it open. Why was it never put to one lane? So, what happened? I know DOT did not come back out in April and say shut it down." Mark Rodier, Commissioner asked if we paid Wright Pierce Engineer? Steve Criner, resident states that there is not a breakdown but if you look at the budget, there was an increase for the Roads and Bridges. Brett Taber, resident states "on page 23, it shows a \$5000 payment to Wright-Pierce Engineering." Susan Ireland, resident states "yes, we paid them, they gave us a plan, and we didn't follow up on it and didn't do their recommendations." Wayne Held, resident states that Skippy did not want to use grout because he didn't want a DES issue, which is why he wanted to use gravel, so it wouldn't disturb the water. Much discussion amongst different individuals. Steve Criner, resident states that he is going to be looking into this to find out exactly what happened. Tricia Stefanelli, resident states that she does not feel Skippy is the one responsible but instead the BOC's are because they should have made sure it was completed correctly.

Jim Czifrik, resident states "we have a bunch of property that is district-owned; as well as the town. Can we take some of these properties and offer to neighbors; as they may want to purchase it. Because then you will have tax money coming in; rather than it just sitting there and doing nothing." Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that is a good idea but just to offer it to neighbors because we are not giving any water permits. Jim Czifrik, resident states "I don't know if it is possible, but can we make a temporary road to be cut in from Mary Rowe into Red Fox Crossing on the other end of the bridge, just to help relieve some of the traffic?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "the problem with cutting a road in, is a lot of people are complaining about the muddy roads this season and if we cut a road out in the middle of the woods, its going to be a muddy mess, plus we don't own all that land." Jim Czifrik, resident states "the roads are not doing well now and with the extra cars on it, it will not be good." Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies "people need to slow down and not go 30 mph." Mark Rodier, resident states "most of the property that ELVD owns is wetlands. (inaudible) we own the corner of Mary Rowe and Gould Pond Road that was donated but nothing can be done (I believe) until the donator passes on but if that is not true, I think we should move the mailboxes there." Jim Czifrik, resident states the mailboxes are in the wrong place.

Veda O'Neill, resident asked if there is a better way to let residents know there is a meeting going on, as some people do not go to the mailboxes and is wondering if maybe notices can go up at the post office. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "all these things are posted on the website." Veda O'Neill, resident states that the website is too confusing, herself and her neighbor couldn't figure it out, and she only knew of the meeting because of Facebook. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that it was posted in The Messenger, ELVD

Mailboxes and school. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that one of the goals is to upgrade the website and make it easier to use.

Moderator asked for all the back conversation to stop.

Steve Criner, resident states that there is a need for a notification system for ELVD residents; maybe through text, email and/or with the link of new information and welcoming information. This is also something Steve Criner, resident would like to investigate when he gets in office.

Melissa Taber, resident states "Skippy does a great job with our roads and I give him credit for all he does because he does a lot of work, but does Skippy have an engineering degree?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replies "no." Melissa Taber, resident continues "then why did we go with Skippy to fix the bridge?" It was stated that the engineers are the ones that told Skippy what to do, to keep the bridge open but the procedures were not followed, and the BOC's didn't make sure it was. Kim Grondin, Clerk asked "If Skippy does exactly what Wright Pierce Engineers told him to do, can we open the bridge back up until 2020, until we have a permanent fix, since we already paid engineers?" Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "no because Wright Pierce is one of the engineers that came out and stated it needed to be closed." Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that Skippy was told to close the bridge on Tuesday but didn't close it till Thursday because he wanted to haul gravel to the backside of the lake before closing it, per Linda Whiting, Commissioner. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "I was not aware he was doing this and when I went by Thursday and discovered the bridge was still open, I called Linda (commissioner) and said what is going on and she replied that Skippy said he was going to do this and that first, he wanted to finish working on the roads. I replied that Skippy works for us. I know that it is a pain in the butt to go around the lake with the gravel but how can you tell people that the bridge has a six-ton load limit on it, when he is going back and forth with gravel and these are my issues. If there are issues with the way the bridge was repaired, perhaps he chose not to follow some of the engineering that was specified but I don't know because I didn't even know there had been an engineer involved in the project. I didn't know there was a plan. There are three commissioners, I came on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and I have been working on the budget and finances, I have not had time to do any work on the water, roads or anything else. At this point, somebody new is going to be stepping in. I am going to work with Steve (Criner, new commissioner) and hand over my notes because there is a lot of stuff that needs to be followed-up on because things are not being done but that is my two cents on the bridge. I was not aware of engineering or the repairs."

Mark Rodier, resident asked if ELVD had an administrator yet. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states that it would certainly help and it was something that I was trying to get done but at this point, it is out of her hands but feels very strongly that an administrator would eliminate a lot of these problems; plus that money has been in the budget since last year. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner states "I went to the office last year and applied for the job, but I was told that ELVD was all set, but I am working on the job description now."

Tricia Stefanelli, resident asked if a date could be set for road side cleanup. Melissa Taber, resident asks why a date needs to be set and can people just go and do it on their own. Mark Rodier, resident states that there is still a box of volunteer t-shirts for residents for cleanup day.

Joanne Staples, resident asked what the bottom line for the tax increase will be. Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner replied with \$3.68.

**CLOSING**

The Commissioners reported they had no further remarks to make.

A Motion to adjourn the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Emerald Lake Village District was made by the Commissioners at 2:39 p.m. and approved.

Given under our hands and seal this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.

Respectfully submitted by

Kim Grondin

District Clerk

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