



Emerald Lake Village District

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Board Attendees

Sara Auger, *Commissioner (Chair)*
Brett Taber *Commissioner*
Katie Page, *Commissioner*
Rick Rose, *Clerk*
Carolyn Renken, *Treasurer*

Residents

Melissa Taber, Joseph DeLorenzo, Deb Kardaseski, Steven Fitzherbert, June Fitzpatrick, Keith Hill, Ed Coulter and Ray Cowham

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Auger at 6:30pm.

ELVD Commissioner meeting
Thursday October 21, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call & Quorum of Commissioners

Public Comment and Board response:

Debbie Kardaseski brought up the last meeting and her concern about comments made in regards to the water bills and the board's attitude. She brought up the comment Commissioner Auger made ("residents would need to reduce expenses or work harder") about some residents that may have difficulty paying the increase. She also brought up the comment Commissioner Auger made about the district "looking out for the residents best interests" by not having the Town bill quarterly for the water. Debbie explained that if we did ask the Town to bill quarterly it would add \$650 to the water budget which would add about 1.2 cents per person and would make it easier for those who find it difficult to pay the water bill on time. Commissioner Auger responded to Debbie's concerns by saying that her words may have been a little insensitive and said her exact words were "if you can't spend less then you need to make more" and further said that it's just general budgeting and that the sentence was more factual than being directed towards anyone in specific, but understands how the jump in the water bill is tough for a lot of people. She did reach out to the Tax Collector and asked if the due date could be extended but was advised it could not be done, but will keep this option in mind for the future.

Debbie also brought up that it was mentioned by Commissioner Auger that the district was saving money because we are not paying for an Administrator. This money is still in the budget (and still be taxed on) for an Administrator and the position was never filled and won't be this year. Debbie also mentioned that past items (like culverts and beach sand) have been budgeted and taxed on and if they don't get completed end up getting budgeted again. She advised the board that they can encumber some of these funds so the money from this year can be carried into the following year and can also be used to offset taxes. Commissioner Taber stated that some on the board are aware of working with encumbered funds and they will have this topic as a discussion point starting with December meetings.

The budget of every single year is dependent on EVERY resident and their vote. The last annual meeting brought out 30 residents. Annual meeting date, time and place are provided to residents between 10 - 30 days beforehand.

Commissioner Auger responded to the culvert concern by saying that we had an issue last year as well as this year. With the passing of Skippy, putting out the bid 3 times for a new road agent and the previous road agent walking out on us completing these projects was a difficult thing to accomplish. The current road agent has limited time left to

complete any culvert projects before the ground freezes and will work with us to get as much accomplished as he can, but his priority right now is doing some initial grading of all of the roads.

Commissioner Page responded to the sand concern Debbie brought up by saying that there is still a plan getting this delivered by next month. She explained that she put out for the permit and got it prepared and the check ended up going with the permit for the culverts which went to Wright-Pierce and the sand permit check needed to be located. On Monday she sent the permit over to Wright-Pierce and they will send both the check and permit to the State and as soon as that's completed the sand can be ordered.

A resident (from Hummingbird) asked if the leaves were going to be removed from culverts/ditches and Commissioner Taber responded by saying that the road agent has done one or two days of some culvert work and plans on doing more on the road crossing culverts and ditches. Culverts on Town owned (Gould Pond, Bog, Melody and Patten Hill) roads are the Town's responsibility.

Melissa Taber had a question for attendee Steven Fitzhebert (our Summer maintenance contractor) regarding the parking lot at Eastman and why it hasn't been cleaned up at this time. Commissioner Auger responded by saying that his contract states that this is done in the Spring and would also be done as an end of the season clean-up. She had previously spoken with Steve and he stated that this would be started in the second week of November before his contract ends in mid-November.

Melissa also asked the board to work with David Stefanelli in perhaps having photo submissions sent to him so he can update the website with fresh pictures.

Ray Cowham asked if public notice was made regarding the arsenic testing. Commissioner Auger responded by saying that it has been posted on all kiosks and on the website and all mailings will be completed by the end of this week or the beginning of next week. Commissioner Auger stated that notices provided to residents will be within the 30 days the State provides us for notifications to be sent. The arsenic level (which we do treatment for) recently tested came in at 6 parts per billion and the State's threshold for it is 5 parts per billion. They changed these numbers from 10 to 5 back in July of this year. Arsenic is a natural occurrence within bedrock wells in the State of NH. Options will be discussed with Aquamen for treating the arsenic better in the future, as well as getting the Eastman well operating. Currently, we have two wells that are plumbed into our water treatment system at Meetinghouse where fluoride and arsenic are treated. We are meeting the standards at these two wells the State has set for fluoride (secondary level) and have no violations for arsenic even though one of these wells is one of the highest contributors for arsenic where absorption media is being used. The recent violation (received in the first week of October) is from Patten Hill consisting of three wells where we've lost two wells there. The blended average was just above the new threshold.

Income Survey:

The target for responses is 75% and we are currently at 42.2%. Survey results are an opportunity for us to obtain loan forgiveness and/or grant money. Our median household income (MHI) at this point is \$51K. The Town of Hillsboro has a MHI of \$82K and the water system (downtown) averages \$70K. The ELVDs MHI will default to the Town's MHI if enough surveys are not returned.

If someone owns more than one property only one income survey was sent out, per RCAP Solutions. If a home consists of a roommate/tenant it still counts as "one" household and would not have received two separate surveys. Commissioner Taber explained that out of the 534 water hookups only about 400 surveys (full-time residents with a water hookup) were sent as part of what RCAP and the State recognized as necessary contributors to this survey and no one that owns a second home here was included. RCAP has stated that if we can get close to the needed responses, then they may still be able to work with the district.

A second effort will be made to obtain more responses. The initial mailings were sent in September. Commissioner Auger made a motion to purchase 700 stamps (coming from the water budget) for office use. Commissioner Page seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Road Agent Update:

Commissioner Taber states that Bow Smith is nearing completion for most of the road grading. It's been shared that residents like what they see within the first couple of weeks of his contract.

Audit 2020:

Commissioner Page advised that the proposed date for this review is November 3rd.

2021 Water Main Replacement Project:

We're still on track for the end of this month to get the rest of the survey data, then Wright-Pierce can complete the design for the bid specs. There is no longer an immediate rush to break ground this year.

The district's 10-year Asset Management plan (about 119 pages) which was completed last Summer with Wright-Pierce can be viewed on the website (on the home page). The plan outlines many improvements on what the district hopes to accomplish.

Eastman Well Update:

Pilot testing efforts are on-going. Aquamen was there 4 days last week and 2 days this week. Commissioner Auger had trailer photos posted on the website to show the system set-up they have with the treatment options (for iron and manganese) they are trying. We have a Sanitary Survey with the State and they will meet with Aquamen October 29th to review the progress of the pilot testing.

The water tank has been holding well lately at 18.2ft and 18.9ft within the past week.

Commissioner Auger has been in contact with the State to receive an application for the Drinking Water Grant Trust Fund. We missed the initial deadline but we can still get this in if we send in a waiver. This waiver was completed and Commissioner Auger contacted Wright-Pierce and they are working on developing an application for the DWGTF and will send that in with the waiver, along with a special project application.

Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are still pending, as we are awaiting a meeting with the Town because they receive the funds and any distribution to ELVD would come from them.

Review water service Rules & Regulations (section 5):

This section deals with water shut-offs. The hourly rate for Aquamen to do these will need to be reviewed with them and the board.

A resident asked how/if we know that seasonal people turn off their curb stops for the Winter months. Commissioner Taber stated that before they leave the ELVD for the season, they have the opportunity to have their curb stop turned off (from October til March) at no charge from Aquamen. If they choose not to and an incident occurs, that resident is liable to pay cost of repairs, trucking in of water, penalty of \$1000 fine and administration costs and could total a \$2K to \$15K invoice.

Last Winter, members of the board drove around the district to view any unplowed driveways to make note of possible seasonal homes and were compared to a list Aquamen has and they may already have turned the curb stop off.

Two additional zone meters were installed this year to help monitor the detection of leaks.

These Rules & Regulations can always be viewed on the website.

5th Annual ELVD Trunk or Treat:

This will be held on Saturday, October 23rd from 5-7pm at Meetinghouse Beach. Trunks can be set up at 4 for decorating. Activities will include decorating your trunk, a parade and trick or treating. Games for the kids and a photo booth will be available courtesy of the ELVD Event Committee.

Approve 10/7 and 10/11 meeting minutes:

Correction to the above item was addressed for the 10/11 minutes to reflect the part the ELVD Event Committee had for the Trunk or Treat.

For the 10/7 minutes, the word "agenda" needed to be removed from the top.

Commissioner Auger made the motion to approve the 10/7 and 10/11 meeting minutes with the above amendments. Commissioner Taber seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Late agenda items:

Commissioner Taber made a motion to purchase (out of the Parks and Recreation fund) 4 cork boards needed (for \$116) for the kiosks. Commissioner Auger seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Commissioner Page advised she has been in touch with the contractor doing the fencing at Eastman. They are willing to wait until we take care of marked trees that need to come down. She also has left messages with 2 tree companies in order to accomplish this task. Commissioner Taber has personally spoken with one of these tree companies and provided the details needed.

Sign any necessary bills

Adjournment of Meeting: Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07, Commissioner Page seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Rick Rose, *ELVD Clerk*

Approved by:

Sara Auger, *Commissioner (Chair)*

Brett Taber, *Commissioner*

Katie Page, *Commissioner*

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