



Emerald Lake Village District

Office: 147 West Main Street Mail: PO Box 2217
Hillsborough, NH 03244

Tel: 603-464-3128 Fax: 603-464-4132 info@elvdnh.com

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, Julie DeLorenzo, June Fitzpatrick, Catherine Condon, Denise DeForest, Kathleen DiMario, Carl DiMarion and Guy Bibeau.

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

ELVD Workshop meeting Thursday November 4, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

Roll Call & Quorum of Commissioners

Public Comment and Board response:

Carl DiMario expressed concern about the lake level and how it's maintained. Commissioner Taber explained that it is maintained at the outlet at Emerald and Hummingbird. There are about 6 boards that are placed and removed during the year. The whole lake at the dam outlet is about 3 ft high. Placement of the boards (buildup) occurs in May, after ice out to restore lake level. In late September/October drawdown occurs for Winter and the boards are pulled out to allow reduction in the lake level at about 6" per week. Currently, all the boards are out and the recent heavy rains contributed to the rise in the lake level. When the boards are in and we expect heavy rains they are maintained to handle rainfall.

Denise DeForest presented the board with a couple of letters from residents concerning their unhappiness about the increase to the water bill (due to the pandemic's added usage, drought, loss of 2 wells and trucking in water) and were read by Commissioner Auger. Commissioner Taber explained that it was impossible for the board to have budgeted spending \$150K to truck in water with so many unforeseen circumstances that occurred all at once last year. Joseph DeLorenzo asked if the trucking in of water will be budgeted for next Summer. Commissioner Taber explained that the budget (meetings are all open to the public) review will include the previous year(s) budget and what is anticipated for the following year. Any funds that were not expended can be carried over and can potentially be used to alleviate the tax rate.

Another letter suggested putting water meters (which is estimated to cost between 3-4 million dollars), dividing the water costs amongst all residents (already being done as a flat rate fee) and allowing them to drill personal wells, which would have to be approved by the State. Commissioner Auger already spoke to one of these residents and after the explanation understood the district's situation better. Another resident asked for the website to be more updated (currently being planned) regarding water and hopes that in the future more advance notice can be shared.

Cathy Condon asked if we draw from the lake and we do not and per NHDES, we cannot. Water is drawn from underground aquifers. We haven't had to truck in water since August but when we do it is due, in most part, to an increase in people (seasonal and visitors) to the lake and once Summer is over the tank can better be maintained. The wells during the system typically run 24 hours a day, but currently run about 16 hours per day due to a lesser demand.

Melissa Taber advised that the cork boards (4) that were ordered came in and now the rotted ones can be replaced at the kiosks, sometime next week. These were paid for through the Parks and Recreation funds and those funds cannot be used (a resident question) for the water budget. The water budget is solely funded on the water rate.

Melissa Taber also asked if Commissioner Auger could acknowledge the picture of the dedication ceremony held for

Skippy Edwards that Mr. and Mrs Bosse from the Messenger brought to the board and will be hung in the office.

Sanitary survey of water system:

This occurred on Friday the 29th and in attendance were Commissioners Auger and Taber along with NHDES. This survey is required every 3 years. They started at Eastman Park and no negative input was received for this area. They proceeded to Meetinghouse and found that the eyewash station needed plumbing maintenance and there were containers that had to be moved elsewhere. The Hummingbird area also received no negative input. At Patten Hill, some barrels had to be removed from any entrance/exit. The water tank was recently inspected (required every 5 years) and no major defects were noted in that inspection. NHDES did mention how nice our grounds were kept. NHDES advised we need to investigate (by the end of this month) wells 6 & 9, as they show active with them but not producing and affecting our permitted volume. We need to find out if these can be cleaned or refurbished and get them re-activated. If this is done, individual testing would need to occur. Commissioner Auger will look into obtaining a quote(s).

Commissioner Taber explained more about these wells. We lost these 2 wells within the past 2 years. The aquifers do take time to get replenished. Putting in transducers will aid Aquamen in knowing how quickly the wells are replenished. Five of our wells are at Patten Hill and seem to be competing for the same water source(s). Well 8 had a maintenance issue (leak) that resulted in having a new pipe installed. The board is going to look into the 2 dry wells and what can be done with them. Currently, running wells are monitored automatically through the storage tank using a float system which triggers when the wells need to turn off/on. When the tank reaches 19.5 ft the pumps shut off and they turn back on at 18.5 ft. When/if the tank reaches 15 ft, then the need to truck in water occurs. NHDES also mentioned the SCADA system, however Aquamen doesn't feel that this should be an immediate concern. This system allows for remote access for monitoring a water system. Getting this would involve the cost of installation and computer system updates. This could be looked at in the future once our system is operating normally. A report of recommendations (not mandates) will be forthcoming from the State. Once all of this has been finalized, it will be put on the website.

End of year expenses:

The transducers were on schedule to be purchased before the end of the year, but awaiting a new quote from Aquamen. The previous quote was obtained last Summer for \$31,790 and we are expecting the parts to increase this quote. This had already been budgeted for \$32K.

Commissioner Taber advised that they can obtain all the materials through this year's funding. Meetinghouse materials for paint, locks, sheeting/trim boards, shelving and chemical spill kits are estimated to be \$1500. Patten Hill materials for much of the same as Meetinghouse are estimated to be \$350. Parks and Recreation funds will be used for replacement of fencing (plastic-wrap) near the Meetinghouse property owner, pressure treated lumber will be needed for benches and picnic tables are estimated to cost \$360. Mailbox building materials like shingles, flashing and light bulbs total about \$1200. Roadwork items like sign posts, culvert marking posts, signage and materials to mark main water lines estimated to cost \$1000. Water system spare parts, curb stops and boxes, main gate valves, additional zone meter, media and transducer parts are needed. Without the transducer parts and the media these materials are estimated to cost about \$10K. Aquamen will be getting us a quote for the other items. New dam boards, eye hooks, markers and brackets will cost around \$200. Commissioner Auger requested all this information be sent to both her and Commissioner Page for review to be addressed at the next meeting.

Commissioner Taber made a motion to deposit (from warrant articles approved at the last annual meeting) \$25K from the general account into the Roads and Bridges capital reserve fund and \$25K from the water account to the water capital reserve accounts. Commissioner Auger seconded, all approved, motion passed.

Income Survey:

This income is to determine our eligibility for grants and loan forgiveness, which could be used to offset (by 10%-40%) our financial responsibility of the \$1.26 million road project scheduled for the Spring. A previous, years ago, was unsuccessful so the district had to launch another effort this year. This effort began in September and we have had only a 48.8% response. Another effort was launched to get further responses from full time residents. These surveys will help assist the district for the next three years with any needed projects. If we don't receive the expected 75% return in surveys (but the closer we can get the State may be willing to work with us) we won't qualify for loan forgiveness and we would be forced to default to the Town's median household income of \$82K. If you still have not received your survey please contact Commissioner Auger.

Commissioner Auger mentioned that the ARPA funding is separate funding that the Town is receiving. We are eligible to receive the standard 20% funding and award letters are due to go out by the end of this month. There's \$50 million available through the State and the board is working with our engineers to have plans ready to present to the State.

Road Agent Update:

Commissioner Taber provided the update by saying that per Bow Smith all roads had been addressed prior to all the heavy rain we just received and he has come back to do more work. This week a rock on Winter Road fell and blocked a culvert. He pumped and cleaned that area. He's been working on culvert and ditch cleaning to improve run-off in those areas and has removed about 20 truckloads of material. He worked on a sinkhole on Spring Street where a culvert pipe cracked and separated and he will be replacing that this coming Monday. Soon, he will be bringing in sand to place at the pit for Winter use. The pile of gravel at Emerald Beach will be removed soon, as well, and stored elsewhere for use on future projects.

Audit 2020:

Commissioner Page stated that we had the auditors here the previous evening getting things prepared so they can complete the audit. All documents were ready to be received by them and they should be wrapping things up shortly.

2021 Water Main Replacement Project:

Eight of the twelve road surveys have been completed. The engineers still have to meet with Aquamen to complete the west side of the lake roads. The engineers are also still working on the project design for the bid specs and this project is scheduled to be put out to bid (a 4-week process) in January.

There were delays doing these surveys due to equipment failure and a flood in their office caused a loss of data and had to be re-done.

Eastman Well Update:

Pilot testing for this well is being completed within the next 2 weeks and Aquamen will present their findings to us by the end of the month. Treatment options (for the iron, manganese and organics) will be discussed and then we will need to determine the costs of these options. No additional funding has been spent other than the original funding set aside for this project. Additional expenses would incur if/when this well is placed into operation for electrical & pumping stations, media and the infrastructure to pipe from Eastman to the treatment building.

Wetlands permit communication:

We received communication on 10/25 that we needed to provide additional information. This is for the beach sand and they are in need of photos and square footage of the beach. Commissioner Page will be working this to completion. Debbie Kardaseski asked about the status of the permit for the culverts. Commissioner Taber explained that the initial permit was denied. They are requesting letters from affected landowners. Commissioner Taber is working with the engineers to get this completed.

Review water service Rules & Regulations (section 6.1 and 6.2):

No suggestions were made for changes to be made to 6.1 other than defining a district shutoff versus a residential (a second one) shutoff. No suggestions were made to change section 6.2 and having to use DigSafe is a State mandate.

Approve 10/21 meeting minutes:

Commissioner Auger made a motion to accept these minutes as written, Commissioner Page seconded and all approved, motion passed.

Late agenda items:

Next Thursday there will be a meeting for the proposed change to the Rules and Regulations regarding fireworks. This was also recently advertised in the Messenger.

Sign any necessary bills

Adjournment of Meeting:

Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17, Commissioner Page seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Rick Rose, *ELVD Clerk*

Approved by:

Sara Auger, *Commissioner (Chair)*

Brett Taber, *Commissioner*

Katie Page, *Commissioner*