



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

Wayne Held, Joseph DeLorenzo, Donna Lovejoy, Michelle Powell, Chris Reed, Melissa Taber, Don Johnson, Lisa Whitten, Kevin Gorman, Soren Wells and Rick Boudreau.

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

Agenda

ELVD Workshop meeting
Thursday July 8, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

~ Pledge of Allegiance

~ Roll Call & Quorum of Commissioners

~ Resident Melissa Taber addressing the Board: Melissa is wondering why the district doesn't utilize either a credit/debit card as her and her family have spent quite a bit of money (\$844) on the district's behalf and feel it's not fair that they have to wait weeks to get reimbursed. Commissioner Auger explained that this subject has been brought up in previous meetings. One issue for not obtaining one is that there has been constant change of board members, however, it can now be addressed with the new Treasurer. Commissioner Auger will research how other municipalities handle this issue.

Melissa also brought up the issue of fireworks for this and last year. She wanted to know whose responsibility it is to clean up the mess left behind on the beaches. She passed around pictures that show the unnecessary and irresponsible mess left after the 4th of July. Commissioner Auger explained that it is the responsibility of the resident/s that choose to light them off and it is expected the beaches will be cleaned up the day after these occurred. Resident Chris Reed suggested that perhaps one board member could be chosen to do this in the future because just one of the commissioners did the clean-up. He also suggested that at the 2022 Annual Meeting residents vote to ban fireworks and perhaps hire a professional company to do fireworks and perhaps how the residents would want to fund that effort. Commissioner Taber advised there was a safety issue last year. Fireworks are not supported nor posted by the district. Per district rules, fireworks are permissible with the expectation that those lighting off fireworks will be responsible enough to light them off safely and to clean up after themselves. These actions should not be a "policed" effort by other residents (unless they volunteer to do so) nor the commissioners. Commissioner Taber also explained that due to someone's negligence or purposeful mischief one trash can was torched and if it had not been for the previous rainfall there could have been a massive forest fire because a tree next to this trash can was burned. The board will discuss whether or not to permit fireworks to be lit on the beaches from this point forward due to major safety concerns (along with zero responsibility of clean-up) and lack of respect for district and private property for the past 2 years. Resident Joseph DeLorenzo suggested (for next year's fireworks) the board charge a fee/fill out a form and if that resident has not cleaned up that beach they used they will be assessed a fine. However, the board in no way wants to take on ANY liability where fireworks are concerned. Commissioner Auger has been in contact (and will continue) with the Hillsboro PD regarding public drinking and a Pine Glen resident lighting off illegal fireworks.

~ **Public Comment:** Resident Don Johnson asked about 8 and 11 Autumn Road and the water bill and upon researching it through the Town website found no utility connections and/or taxes paid since 2017 and 2014, respectively. He also advised there is a Pine Glen property that he discovered has been paying taxes (since 2014) but no water bill. Commissioner Taber advised that this was recently discovered and will be added to the next water warrant. Commissioner Auger advised 8 Autumn is Town-owned but will research the 11 Autumn Road property. He also asked who is responsible for maintaining culverts. Commissioner Auger explained that driveway culverts are the property owner's responsibility. If a resident doesn't take of their culvert and the district has to do any work, that cost can be invoiced to the resident. All other culverts are district responsibility. We flushed out between 5-10 last year and there's a list for this year that'll be done between this Summer and the Fall, as well as some culvert replacements taking place.

Resident Rick Boudreau asked about curb stops and how they are billed. Commissioner Taber explained that every property that has one, as long as we are aware of them, gets a full invoice whether there's a home on it or not and whether or not they are consuming it. Until the district is able to financially invest in residential metering, this is the system that is in place and will remain until that can happen.

Resident Soren Wells asked about who established the water ban and also about RVs that are cropping up on residential properties that are utilizing water hoses. Resident Wayne Held shared that the water ban was created by the board when Bob Hutchinson was a commissioner back in 2005/2006. If we were to relax the water ban, the district would be paying for more water to be trucked in and have costs similar to last year of approximately \$150K or more. The usage rate (combined with the ongoing drought situation) due to the influx of Summer seasonal people and resident visitations has increased. Commissioner Taber also explained that the trucking in of water is becoming more difficult as the town has a shortage of drivers able to do this for the district and now are only able to get one truck instead of the two we need to keep up with demand. The tank was at the 12 ft level today and when it reaches 10 ft the residents at higher elevations cannot get water properly delivered to them. The board's efforts to try and get infrastructure replaced, establishing the new well (will provide 20 gallons per minute) and having a water ban are to help alleviate the district's water issues. He also wants to make residents aware that if these projects don't move along as they should, the State can impose fines and that would be money we can't spend where we need it. State/government funding (like the \$315K grant we received) is always being looked at by the board. To further fund the effort to get more money for the district, the State (as of two weeks ago) needs an income survey (last done in 2013/2014) by 90% of the residents. We could, potentially lose, up to \$500K electing not to complete this survey (one page) that would show our full need. The Town of Hillsboro's median income average is \$86K. The board cannot stress enough how important it is that everyone fill out this survey as we will not be eligible for upcoming grants/loan forgiveness if this is not done and will find ways on how to get these out to everyone.

As far as the RVs are concerned, resident Melissa Taber shared that RVs on resident's property are a Town issue as far as permitting. You are allowed to keep an RV camped out on your property for 3 months and then it has to be moved. The Town's building inspector does drive around the district for this purpose. There is also a campground in Town where RVs can be placed while they stay in Hillsboro. Commissioners Auger and Page will follow-up on this issue as well as the issue of having outside hoses (which is against the district rules) hooked up to these RVs.

~ **American Rescue Plan Act of 2021:** Commissioner Auger explained that the application for this just opened last month and will remain open until August 18th. That State of NH is receiving \$112 million in funding. The board is hoping to get some of this funding. Commissioner Page went on to explain (as she has already reached out to a contact) that this act is earmarked for mental health support due to the pandemic. One possibility may be putting in a playground at Meetinghouse or Emerald Beach.

~ **Next steps for Source Water Protection Grant:** Commissioner Page was trying to get the grant increased due to the rising costs of labor/materials (original quote of \$21,414 was obtained in November) due to the pandemic and unfortunately this won't occur. The tasks quoted were to install fencing around the new well and to update fencing at Meetinghouse Beach (totaling \$20,975.91) and security cameras (\$162 each) for Meetinghouse and the new well area and for signage (\$47) for the new well. The difference of approximately \$600 can be taken from Capital Reserves. Commissioner Auger made a motion to move forward with the Source Water Protection Grant work, as updated. Commissioners Page, Taber and Auger all accepted, motion passed. In November, we'll have the ability to apply for another grant.

~ **Road Conditions & Road Agent update:** The road agent (qualified to maintain roads and excavate and either have or have access to equipment needed) has been out this week (the rain hindered any progress they tried to make) and continues studying our roads to understand and develop his routine especially when it comes to the needs for grading, which is usually a fixed number of times based on the price of the contract. The remnants of the hurricane prevented him from working today and tomorrow. His contract states that grading will occur once a month. There are challenges to materials being used on the roads based on budgetary (usually a fixed amount) constraints. Commissioner Taber states that the road agent will be back next week to work on the roads, weather permitting.

Resident Chris Reed suggested that more focus be on the road to and from the mailboxes. The road agent is NOT responsible for the clearing of limbs/vegetation. Property owners are responsible (this is in the rules and regulations) for any of vegetation that causes any obstruction or that may hinder the passing of the roads safely. The Summer Maintenance contractor is responsible for the clearing of visibility issues that occur at road intersections. The board has in the past and will in the future hold volunteer days for those that wish to help in this effort. But, for those who wish to do it on their own, they are welcome to do so.

Culvert work for the next 3 years: The permit we've applied for will be good for this timeframe and saves the district money by not applying each year. The agreement we've made with the road agent this year is to do up to 5 (not 12, as stated by a Resident Soren Wells) culverts.

Resident Richard Boudreau asked about how the road agent will handle the roads in the Winter since we are not the only district for which they do work. It's the contractor's responsibility on when/how he gets his employees to do snow plowing/removal. The contract does state that if we need to hire someone then the road agent bears the financial responsibility. The work they will perform is per event and not a per hour rate of pay. Commissioner Taber also stated that he has 2 pieces of equipment (as well as equipment that track storms and their severity) and that equipment will be in the ELVD until the job is complete. Any costs to maintain or replace equipment is the sole responsibility of the road agent.

There has been a piece of old machinery where the sand/gravel is kept for the roads. This is not the district's nor our road agent's property. This belongs to a private resident and will be removed soon.

Resident Melissa Taber inquired about the speed limit sign that was proposed for Red Fox Crossing. Commissioner Auger advised that the Hillsboro PD will place this (shortly) where you approach Red Fox Crossing towards the bridge.

~ **Design & Bidding Phase Proposal from Wright-Pierce:** We received the estimate from Wright-Pierce for the engineering portion of the road replacement project. Their timeline has the project completion in the Fall 2022 instead of what they projected at the Annual Meeting as the Summer of 2022. Construction is scheduled to begin October 2021. The board will need to further review the estimate and get back to Wright-Pierce with any questions.

Since 2014, no board has looked into getting any of the water infrastructure replaced. This also may mean that obtaining loans will happen at a more frequent pace to keep the momentum going to help fix our broken system. Water operators respond to about 30 leaks per year and these efforts will only help alleviate the need for so many repairs.

~ **Eastman Well update:** Information was recently posted on the website and FB. Well piloting is continuing this week and hoping to finalize this by the end of the month. We need to give the State all the information including all of the lab results with a proven treatment plan. Commissioner Auger has stated we may benefit in starting a conversation with the Water and Sewer Commission about the possibility of connecting to their water supply in the future, perhaps in 10-15 years.

Residents Melissa Taber and Chris Reed would like to see more beneficial updates to the Eastman well process. Commissioner Auger agreed and will provide these on a more regular basis.

Resident Richard Boudreau asked about the parking at Eastman Beach. Commissioner Auger explained that the gate is closed because of the pending water source and per NHDES gas powered vehicles are NOT allowed to park there. The board is still pursuing other options for parking and if found will need to be discussed at the next Annual Meeting. There are 3 other beaches that have parking that residents have access to visit. Commissioner Page went on to explain that at the Annual Meeting **residents opposed** funding to any parking lots in that area.

~ **Zone Meter update:** Aquamen were working on the Red Fox Crossing meter pit today. Excavation operations on Moccasin Trail are scheduled for this week, weather permitting. More detail can be found on the website and on FB. Aquamen continues to provide updates to both the State and Commissioner Auger.

~ **Lead & Copper Sampling:** Commissioner Auger believes that this is done every 2-3 years. The State needs at least 10 samples. Residents (full-time) can volunteer to take part. The addresses selected will need to be comparable to the ones when the last samples were done.

~ **Summer Beach sand permitting:** Commissioner Page states that the board needs to decide which beach needs sand. Each beach would require its own permit, which is \$400 for each location. Emerald Beach (mailbox) has been suggested (the permit has been filled out for this one) as one of the major beaches needing sand. This is only allowed

to be done every 6 years, on a rotation basis. Volunteers would be appreciated to help spread the sand once it is obtained.

Commissioner Auger advised that the boards at Meetinghouse Beach separating the grass from the sand are in need of repair which will need a trench dug out to allow for proper drainage and place a 4" pipe for run-off. Another option would be to interlock the boards and install railroad spikes to keep them in place. Commissioner Auger's and Page's husbands have volunteered to take care of this task or any resident can volunteer to help, as well.

~ **Eugene "Skippy" Edwards Memorial sign bridge sign dedication:** The board intends to have some kind of ceremony/gathering to put the sign up for all his years of dedication to the ELVD. Commissioner Page advises that she submitted payment for the sign 13 days ago and they said it should be ready in three weeks at that time.

~ **Generator maintenance 7/14 -7/15:** This is for full maintenance to the generators for all our locations.

~ **Update on Internet/TDS:** Commissioner Taber was in contact with them this week. They are still in a design state because there are two different teams working on our needs. As soon as they have an install date, they will let us know but they did not have an estimated timeline for us.

~ Commissioner Taber announced that Resident Ray Cowham donated another swim raft for Meetinghouse Beach. Unfortunately, some parts malfunctioned and replacement parts are on order. When the raft was tied up a resident/s untied the raft and placed it in very shallow (5 ft) water potentially causing a serious accident resulting from any diving from the raft. Commissioner Taber is asking residents to allow the board/contractor to do their work and not touch any equipment they do not own, especially when due to a safety issue. Commissioner Taber made a motion to accept this donation (valued at \$1800) from Mr. Cowham. Commissioners Auger, Page and Taber all accepted the motion, motion passed.

~ Resident Michelle Powell asked if the 15ft rule (from your property line) is still applicable when planning to build a permanent structure on your property. Commissioner Taber did advise that this is part of the normal side setback and advised her to reach out to the Town's code enforcement for this and any permitting concerns.

~ Resident Melissa Taber had a question regarding contact info on the website. She explained she sent emails to specific people and didn't receive a response back from all emailed. Commissioner Auger explained that when she responds to an email she also emails the other Commissioners to let them know, as well. Some of the commissioners have certain tasks that they are "in charge" of and will be better suited to answer certain questions.

~ **Adjourn meeting and sign necessary bills**

Adjournment of Meeting: Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioners Page, Taber and Auger accepted the motion, motion accepted. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

* The Agenda is subject to change at the Commissioner's discretion up to and during the meeting.

Rick Rose, *ELVD Clerk*

Approved by:

Sara Auger, *Commissioner (Chair)*

Brett Taber, *Commissioner*

Katie Page, *Commissioner*