



Emerald Lake Village District

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Board Attendees

Brett Taber, *Commissioner*

Sara Auger, *Commissioner*

Katie Page, *Commissioner*

Rick Rose, *Clerk*

Residents

Melissa Taber and Wayne Held

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

Agenda

ELVD Public Budget Hearing and Bond Proposal Hearing meeting

Saturday March 20, 2021 @ 10:00 AM

Location: ELVD office (in person)

- Roll Call & Quorum of Commissioners
- Pledge of Allegiance

This hearing is to cover the bond and budget and warrant articles for informational purposes for the residents.

The bond article for this year the board is proposing in total is for \$1.26 million dollars. The ELVD hopes to raise and appropriate this sum for the purpose of replacing water mains on three streets. There will be \$315K (25% of the overall project to come from the Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund Grant) and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$945K of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act RSA 33 further to authorize municipal officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine rate of interest thereon. The commissioners recommend this article and seek to receive the three/fifth ballot votes required.

The intent of the board on this is the planning of the repair of three roads: Autumn Road (\$588K), Ellenbrook Road (\$420K) and Old Lantern Road (\$252K). These roads consist of 6000 linear ft of piping needing to be replaced from 2" main with 4" main. All valves and curb stops would also be replaced. The board is currently investigating whether to install pits, depending upon final costs, for water meters. The whole project is broken down for construction, engineering and contingency costs. If the residents do not approve the whole project, we do not receive the whole \$315K grant.

Resident Wayne Held suggested the board look into obtaining federal grants to assist the district in the repair of our water infrastructure. Commissioner Taber explained that this past week they did receive notification that there will be federal funds available for upcoming projects. The board will have to research just how much money is available and who is eligible to receive it.

If these three roads are approved and completed that means 72 curb stops will be in good operation versus potential leak situations and is about 14% of our overall water distribution hook-ups and could alleviate concern for at least the next 20 years or more.

Resident Wayne Held inquired about the Capital Reserve Fund. Commissioner Taber explained the fund is beneficial to offset future projects. The remainder of the roads will require about \$300K each to replace the piping. Even if the district can save \$50K a year, it'd take 6 years to have enough for one road and would potentially cost much more after those 6 years.

Article 4 is for the general operating budget to see if ELVD residents will raise and appropriate the sum of \$341,175 for the general operating expenses of the district. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual warrant articles voted separately.

Overall the budget mostly stayed the same from last year. There were a couple minor changes that caused some line items to increase.

Categories:

General Government: For 2021 there is \$12,124 budgeted. This amount is down \$637 from last year. The only increase in this category was for postage as we had a lot of mailings that needed to be sent.

Government Administration: For 2021 there is \$50,024 budgeted. This has an increase of \$536.025 from last year. This was caused due to gaps in Commissioner payments.

Financial Administration: For 2021 there is \$8,950 budgeted. This is up \$900 from last year. This is due to the Audit price increase.

Total General Government: For 2021 there is \$78,856 budgeted. There is a \$674.25 increase from last year.

Misc. General: For 2021 there is \$1000 budgeted. This had an increase of \$250. This is for Annual meeting and Election expenses.

Highways and Streets: For 2021 there is \$182,066 budgeted. This is an increase of \$97,766 from last year. This is the highest increase in the overall budget. The board is anticipating this increase because the district is in need of a new contractor to take care of our roads, which is still in progress at this time. The board is considering 2 separate contracts broken down to be one for the Summer (to maintain roads, pothole repair, ditch and shoulder maintenance, grading, culverts and guardrail installation) and one for the Winter for plowing. Our previous contractor was getting paid \$64,800 per year and this is extremely low compared to other districts and what we expect to pay for our district.

Bridge Repairs: For 2021 there is \$54,366 budgeted. This is all for contingency expenses with the exception of Dig safe expenses. There is a separate warrant article to help offset some of these costs.

Culture & Recreation: For 2021 there is \$15,780 budgeted. This is up \$2230 due to the district needing supplemental beach sand and other Summer maintenance. At the end of last season, a proper cleanup was not done.

General Bonded Debt: For 2021 there is \$8107.13 budgeted. This is a new expense for the interest that was charged on the bond anticipation note and the bond loan for the bridge project. The principal on the loan does not start to get paid back until next year, which should be about \$20K to \$25K.

Total General Government expenses budgeted for 2021 is \$339,175.13, which is up from 2020 by \$157,091.38 and mostly due to the anticipation of the cost of the road maintenance contract.

Warrant Article #5 is asking for the district to vote to withdraw \$50K from the Roads and Bridges Capital Reserve Funds to offset a portion of the general operating budget. The board of commissioners recommends this article to handle the contingency fees mentioned earlier.

Water Budget Warrant article #6: To see if ELVD will raise and appropriate the sum of \$545,847.68 and said funds to be offset by income from the water department. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual warrants articles voted separately.

Water Administrative Expenses: For 2021 there is \$21,425 budgeted. This is up from last year by \$3400. This is due to an audit increase.

Maintain & Repair Water System: For 2021 there is \$ 193,620 budgeted. This is up from last year by \$40,770. We had numerous (in excess of 30-40 leaks this past year) repairs, labor costs and various projects. There was an increase for incidental snow removal. Maintenance Other had an increase due to having to purchase a new generator/hookup for the new well which included an added expense for Powers Generator in the amount of \$4500. Resident Wayne Held asked about the status of the installation of the zone meters. This category does have this budgeted for 2021 in the amount of \$2500.

Emergency Leak Repair: For 2021 there is \$125,500 budgeted. This is an increase from last year by \$97,250. This includes the trucking in of water (we are still experiencing a drought and lost two wells) and the board hopes to see a decrease in this once the new well is up and running. The State, however, is predicting that we'll be in another drought situation this year. Currently, we have had the need to truck (we trucked in 327 truckloads last year) in water. In the past couple of months there were a couple of houses that had their pipes freeze and burst which resulted in a large volume of water wasted. The board took into account last year's transportation cost and figured in 25% of that for this year's budget.

Non-Leak Repairs: For 2021 there is \$45,400 budgeted. This is up by \$29,400 from last year. These are needed repairs/improvements that we hope can prevent further "emergency" situations. These could include replacing curb stops, well maintenance, replacing pipes and building repairs. The building repairs are to include why so much was

spent on heating the treatment center.

We also had to spend about \$3K-\$5K per day to have our water operator on site when water deliveries were being made. This year we will be responsible for paying a labor rate to the Town of Hillsboro for the use of their water operator.

Miscellaneous: There is just one line item for \$1.00. This is there just to keep it open in case we should need to use this category for any needed expenses.

Water Treatment Costs: For 2021 there is \$12,676 budgeted. This is an increase of \$1700 from last year. When testing is complete on the new well, we'll know better just what treatment will be needed.

Resident Wayne Held asked about the disposal of the treatment vessels. This was already approved to be done. Timing might be an issue with our water operators. Commissioner Auger will inquire whether or not this is still on their agenda for the month of April. Due to the high cost of trucking in water, this task has been temporarily placed on the back burner.

Water Conservation: For 2021 \$1001 has been budgeted. This is up \$500 from last year. This is to make sure leak detection is taking place to prevent any emergency situations. The Town of Hillsboro has notified us of water conservation efforts they're working on and has a contractor providing them with 55 gallon rain barrels at reduced cost and asked us if we're interested in purchasing some to distribute/sell to ELVD residents. A pallet of 15 would cost \$975. These would cost about \$24 less than usual.

The board is also looking into making sure that the seasonal residences have their water shut off to prepare for the Winter months to avoid any future freezing pipe/leak emergencies.

Engineering & Permits: For 2021 there is \$3000 budgeted. This amount remains unchanged from last year.

Water Bonded Debt: For 2021 there is \$143,225.68 budgeted. This is up \$5966.68 from last year due to an increase in interest payments, but we also experienced a reduction in administration fee. The interest includes the loan for the piping (phase one) around the lake and the water tank installation. The phase one loan will end in 2033 and the source water loan will end in 2031. Next we'll see additional expenses due to principal payments needing to be made for the Eastman Well loan and not due until next year.

Total Water (without bond & WA) is budgeted for \$402,622 for 2021. This is up by \$173,020 from last year. This is the potential increase at this point. This does not include the principal added next year. If the project is voted in by the residents, they'll be additional principal/interest added, as well. Hopefully, we'll be able to offset some of these potential increases with improvements and/or repairs.

Commissioner Taber explained thoughts about hooking up to another water source. Doing this could incur construction/engineering costs anywhere from \$3 to \$6 million dollars just for the hookup alone. From that point you would still have to pay for the volume of water you purchase. In prior years, usage and leaks, the district has processed 26 million gallons of water per water. If this were to be purchased from the Town, it would've been in excess of our operating budget last year alone.

Chairman Taber made a motion to submit an application to apply for federal funds regarding water treatment development (not much in the way of funding for this currently) for iron and manganese, well transducers (this is currently in the budget but could be offset by federal funding), arsenic treatment (need to make a plan for the blended treatment at Patten Hill due to the change in July as the threshold is going from 10 parts per billion to 5), upgrading the electrical system at Patten Hill (this entails moving the piping as well as the electrical into the building so it's protected and heated incurring generator costs), skada system (a remote system to help monitor water output and not having to pay for actual labor costs). Commissioners Auger, Page and Taber all accepted the motion, motion passed.

- Adjournment of meeting: Commissioner Taber made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 am. Commissioners Auger, Page and Taber accepted the motion, motion passed.

* Meetings will now be held in person at the district office at 147 W Main Street, Hillsboro, NH unless otherwise noted. The Agenda is subject to change at the Commissioner's discretion up to and during the meeting.

Regards,

Rick Rose, *ELVD Clerk*

Approved by:

Brett Taber, *Commissioner (Chair)*

Sara Auger, *Commissioner*

Katie Page, *Commissioner*