



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*
Rick Rose, *Clerk*
Carolyn Renken, *Treasurer*

Residents

Melissa Taber, Jordan Murphy, Sarah Blackman, Chris Sieg, Mark Rodier, Peter Mellen, Ed Coulter, Tricia Stefanelli and Dave Stefanelli.

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

ELVD Special Commissioner Meeting Thursday March 31, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Roll Call & Quorum of Commissioners

Board of Commissioner's Business:

DWSRF (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) Loan Hearing

The purpose of this hearing is to discuss a loan from the DWSRF in the amount of \$4,775,000 to be used for three projects: Patten Hill treatment center upgrades, Meetinghouse treatment center upgrades and water system infrastructure upgrades and its continuation.

If we choose to spend and approve the whole \$4,775,000 we will end up receiving \$1.9 million in ARPA funding, \$1.4 million in Drinking Water Ground Trust Fund and 15% loan forgiveness which equates to 74% that residents will not have to pay back. This is similar to last year's proposal of \$1.26 million for infrastructure and will have similar out-of-pocket costs for the residents.

Article 02 \$3,235,000 to replace water mains

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,235,000 for the purpose of replacing water mains and to authorize the borrowing of \$1,941,000 from the NH State Revolving Loan Fund. The sum of \$1,294,000 would be obtained from a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. And to authorize the board to accept grant funds and any other funding if available.

This is in addition to the 2-3 roads being done this year. If the warrant article passes at Annual Meeting then all of the 11 roads can get done, which is 33% of our roads. This will decrease the need for repairs as the district spends approximately \$80K-\$100K fixing leaks and the need to truck in water. Our system is approximately 60 years old.

David Stefanelli asked if our wells will sustain the amount of water needed for the district? Commissioner Taber responded that Aquamen will install and use transducers (which we've never had) to measure the life cycle of a well (which at this point run constantly) and how quickly they can be replenished. By collecting this data we will be able to narrow down and analyze these issues. Currently, out of the 8 wells we have, only 6 (partly due drought conditions) are active. Historically, the well output for the past 7-10 years has gone from 200 gallons per minute to 50 gallons per

minute and we are hopeful that the Eastman well can make up this deficit. This is one reason why the district has a water ban.

Mark Rodier asked if meters are going to be installed at each residence? Commissioner Auger explained that this is an additive/alternative and is considered a long term project and perhaps 10%-30% can be done in this phase of construction. The ones that are installed will be used to collect the data we need and it is suggested we need at least a year's worth. The Asset Management grant we qualified for is for upwards of \$100K with no match required and part of that is research/evaluation of cost of water and residential metering and what the cost of this development would mean for the district.

Commissioner Auger had a conversation last Summer with the Town about hooking up to their water supply. They were not opposed to the idea. The Asset Management plan did include the possibility of a couple routes for the hook up/s, but is still a \$4-\$6 million dollar project and we would still have to maintain our own water lines.

Peter Mellen asked what kind of piping will be used? The contractor is going to use HDPV piping.

Article 03 \$1,260,000 for Meetinghouse WTP Improvements

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,260,000 for the purpose of replacing water main and to authorize the borrowing of \$756,000 from the NH State Revolving Loan Fund. The sum of \$504,000 would be obtained from a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. And to authorize the board to accept grant funds and any other funding if available.

The Meetinghouse facility will need improvements to aid in treating arsenic and fluoride for the Eastman well and its distribution system. This structure also needs quite a bit of maintenance done to the electrical and control systems, ventilation and safety issues.

David Stefanelli asked if there is any data to correspond with the trucking in of water in that was it due to leaks or having too many people on the system?

Most of the reason is due to road leaks that Aquamen has to fix. There were also a few major house leaks in the recent past. Commissioner Kardaseski pointed out that those residents that incurred the house leak are responsible for covering the cost of the trucking in of water, repairs and any costs associated with that leak and have been collecting these expenses. In 2020, the cost to truck in water was \$111,365 and doesn't include the actual cost of the water or the labor associated. In 2021 the cost was \$25,555.

Commissioner Taber explained that in the past there has never been an adequate amount put in a Capital Reserve aside to make repairs and now there is a long term plan for replacing infrastructure and at the same time a long term plan to put money in the Capital Reserves. This will aid in any future replacements without having to take out extensive loans.

Article 04 \$280,000 to modify Patten Hill WTP

To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$280,000 for the purpose of modifying the Patten Hill Water Treatment Plant to improve operator safety, maintainability and development of an arsenic treatment system at the existing facility, and to authorize the borrowing of \$168,000 from the NH State Revolving Loan Fund. The sum of \$112,000 would be obtained from a grant from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. And to authorize the board to accept grant funds and any other funding if available.

The State reduced the arsenic threshold from 10 parts per billion to 5 and we are not in compliance and upgrades to Patten Hill will bring us back into compliance. Aquamen has suggested using two vessels for treatment. The electrical system also needs to be updated, as well.

Commissioner Taber advised that this week we were informed we qualify for 15% loan forgiveness, trust fund and ARPA (40%) grants. The board was seeking funding for the distribution system continuation, treatment center at Meetinghouse and a treatment system for Patten Hill and totals about \$4.8 million dollars. However, we're only going to need to seek funding for approximately \$1.2 million (a 20-year loan with a potential of \$140 a year for each water user), which means that 74% of this project is funded through grants and loan forgiveness.

In 2026, the bond on the Patten Hill Water tank will be paid off and in 2033 the Phase one Perimeter Water Main will

be paid off. This will allow about \$35K a year to come off and would offset other expenses. The payback to the State for this year's projects wouldn't begin until they are completed and residents wouldn't see an increase in the need to pay back until 2024/2025.

Late Agenda items:

~ Tricia Stefanelli, who has volunteered to be our Moderator for the Annual Meeting was sworn in tonight.

The next scheduled Workshop meeting will be on April 7th @ 6:30pm.

Commissioner Auger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm Commissioner Kardaseki seconded, all commissioners approved, motion passed.

Rick Rose, *ELVD Clerk*

Approved by:

Sara Auger, *Commissioner (Chair)*

Brett Taber, *Commissioner*

Debbie Kardaseski, *Commissioner*

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