

Emerald Lake Village District



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Emerald Lake Village District Commissioners Meeting with Aquamen Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Location: ELVD Office

The Commissioners met with Aquamen Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 5 p.m. to discuss items needing clarification in order to continue working on the 2022 Budget. *Present:* Chairman Sara Auger, Commissioner Brett Taber, Commissioner Debbie Kardaseski (remotely), Resident Melissa Taber, and Craig McGraw and Harold Smith, both from Aquamen.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Auger at 5:00 p.m. While waiting for Aquamen to arrive, Brett Taber mentioned it appeared that our moderator, Robert Hansen, had resigned. We are also waiting to see what the availability is of the school gymnasium for our annual meeting. Brett had attended a meeting at DES on Monday morning and was pleased to announce that DES had awarded \$1.3 million in grants to ELVD.

EASTMAN WELL. The first item up for discussion with Aquamen was the status of Eastman Well. Craig has promised us he will wrap up the testing by Jan. 19. Some of the remaining lab tests will take two days to get results; however, the Total Organic Compounds tests take two weeks to get results. Once the final results are sent to DES they will make a decision regarding the viability of the well and its treatment. The Board needs to know treatment costs in order to make a final decision on how it will proceed.

ZONE METERS. All six zone meters seem to be working accurately. DES is looking for leak rates and water flow rates based on the data from the meters. Craig suggested a Zoom meeting with DES.

TRANSDUCERS. The parts have arrived for the transducers. Aquamen will get the Hummingbird Well transducer installed and running first. Cabinetry will be needed at the well site as the current one is full. There is a possibility of using the cabinet near the generator. Electrical for the soft start items could also go there. It is hoped the transducers will be online by Spring. Data will be downloaded once a week.

WELLS 6 AND 9. Discussion ensued regarding shutting off well 8 to see what happens with well 9. It is thought water may have diverted to well 8 from well 9. We need to see if well 9 can be saved. Once transducers are installed, we will have more information to work with.

VARIABLE SPEED CONTROLS/SOFT STARTS. Adding soft start/variable speed controls to

pumps will help with leaks by reducing hammering on the system. It will also help reduce pump wear and tear. Hummingbird, Meeting House, and Mary Rowe wells need these controls installed; wells 7-8-9 don't create as much hammer on the system when they start. Craig thinks the line from Mary Rowe to the Meeting House Treatment Center may be leaking. Brett will forward some photos of this line he recently obtained from WSO+ that may help.

SCADA SYSTEM. Having an up-to-date functional SCADA system would be helpful to obtain more information about our system as well as allowing remote monitoring and perhaps some remote controls. The entire current system needs to be redone as it is a mess. Brett has been working with TDS trying to obtain information on what they are able to do to help with monitoring the system. Their information isn't clear as to what they can actually do for us. It also needs to be ascertained whether the treatment plant upgrade being planned by Wright-Pierce (W-P), ELVD's engineers, includes a SCADA system.

VALVE ASSISTANCE. Discussion ensued regarding Aquamen's availability to assist with valve installation during the construction of the new water lines this coming summer. It needs to be understood what they will do versus what W-P will be doing. Craig also commented that he felt a temporary above-ground water service was the best option during construction.

UPGRADING/MOVING ELECTRICAL, ETC. ON PATTEN HILL. Aquamen will be giving us a proposal to move the electrical and water lines into the "new" building on Patten Hill by wells 7, 8, and 9. There are a few questions that need to be answered before we can get a final quote. One question is what is the size/thickness of the concrete pad located next to the current electrical panel. The Board would like a quote ASAP in order to budget appropriately. There may be grant money available for this project.

GAUGE CERTIFICATIONS TIMING/COSTS. Craig will check on this but thought gauges had to be certified every two years.

TIE MEASURES/ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATES. The newest Asset Management Grant could help us with getting tie measures into GPS format and electronically mapped. Resident Melissa Taber is currently working on getting GPS coordinates for items around the District.

AQUAMEN CONTRACT/RATES. The Board reminded Aquamen that their contract will need to be renewed by year-end and asked what they anticipated for increases, if any. They felt the District would be looking at about a 3% increase given the price of parts, etc. having gone up due to covid-related issues. There may also be an hourly rate increase during the year. They will keep us informed about their plans.

HDPE VS. PVC PIPE. There was a great deal of discussion about the benefits of one type of piping over the other. Craig Mcgraw prefers HDPE on shorter roads or roads with many hookups. He feels 2" line is adequate for our side road unless there are numerous hookups, in which case 3" should be sufficient. Four-inch line would make sense if Ravenhead becomes a loop with Midnight Walk and Red Fox Crossing. The Board and Aquamen need to meet with W-P ASAP in order to express their preference re: pipe. W-P is preparing final bid specifications. *During this discussion, Craig mentioned the presence of several springs on Bobolink Lane and suggested W-P take a look at them.*

BOOSTER PUMP ON PATTEN HILL. The booster pump in a private residence on Patten Hill needs to be replaced. The pump is required to provide the homeowner with adequate water pressure. The cost is estimated at \$2,850.00.

PATTEN HILL ZONE METER. Aquamen needs to access the paddle meter on Patten Hill to get more information before making a decision to repair or replace. They also need to determine if it works with flow in both directions.

ARSENIC MEDIA AT MEETING HOUSE TREATMENT CENTER. Media needs to be backflushed but this can't be done until more of the leaks are fixed as the system cannot provide enough water to recover from backflushing. It is something that should be done quarterly, but our system doesn't currently have the capacity to do that.

PARTS TO STOCK. We would like to keep some often-used parts in stock to save time when repairs are needed. Aquamen felt we should keep 3–5 curb stop assemblies on hand. *A motion was made by Brett, seconded by Debbie, to allow Aquamen to purchase assemblies to have 3–5 on hand. Motion passed.* Currently, the cost is \$200–\$300 each. Records should be checked to see if any of the curb stops that are on the roads where lines are replaced during construction are new enough to salvage and use again.

SANITARY SURVEY. Aquamen will review the survey and contact DES for clarification of a couple of items and see if we can get an extension on replying.

A discussion ensued regarding main gate valves and how many need to be replaced. Locations in some areas are unknown and it was suggested that the town might have some information on valves on Melody Lane. The District would like to see one gate valve replaced each month until they are all done. Aquamen will give us tie measures on any work they've been doing. Brett has been able to track down old data from WSO+, which will be helpful in future decision making.

ACTION ITEM: A meeting between Wright-Pierce, Aquamen, and the Board needs to be scheduled ASAP. Items needing discussion/clarification include pipe preference (size and type), meter pits, service line replacements, and supplying additional tie measures.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Kardaseski, *Commissioner*

Sara Auger, Chairman

Brett Taber, Commissioner

Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner