



## **EMERALD LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT WATER RATE REVIEW MEETING 7 PM THURSDAY APRIL 26TH, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. In attendance were Commissioners Paul Sylvia and Troy Cornock, Chairman Deborah Marshall-Gilbert, Commissioners-Elect Bob Hutchinson and Karen Booth, Department of Environmental Services Water Supply Engineering Bureau (DES-WSEB) Representative Rick Skarinka, and approximately three citizens.

Commissioner Sylvia distributed several handouts; the first of which contained information on water system infrastructure improvement projects that would (or could) be required over the next several years, which included each project's purpose, estimated cost and required completion date if known. Projects discussed included well # 12, potential water treatment issues, street main replacement, and water meters within 3 years. The handout also contained financial calculations detailing 2007 water system revenues and expenses.

Rick Skarinka asked several questions about how many houses were served and the level of peak demand in gallons per day. He also said he had information back at his office about funding programs for specific phases of some of the types of projects listed.

The second handout was a chart showing cash flows from 2002 to the present, and projections through 2010. The chart included the infrastructure improvement project costs for well # 12 in 2008, and residential water meters in 2010, and showed that water system revenues do not currently cover the day-to-day operation and maintenance expenses, and will be far short of covering anticipated improvement project costs. There was a brief discussion of whether well #12 and meters were really needed on the timetable laid out in the handouts, and Rick Skarinka said they were.

Commissioner Sylvia said he thought water rates should go up enough to cover current costs, and that perhaps there should be a surcharge on top of that to go into a water system capital reserve for the anticipated improvement projects. Commissioners Cornock and Gilbert agreed. Commissioner Sylvia asked Commissioners-Elect Hutchinson and Booth if they had any questions. Commissioner-Elect Booth said no. Commissioner-Elect Hutchinson said he understood that the village needs more water to meet peak demand with some left over, and meters would be a requirement down the road. Commissioner Sylvia said that 2007 expenses of \$203,379 divided by 520 services equaled a little over \$391/household/year, and that he thought a motion to raise water rates from the present \$280 per year to \$400 was in order.

Rick Skarinka noted that \$400/year/household was about average in southern NH, and that in his opinion, the Commissioners would be taking a very positive step by bringing water rates into alignment with costs. Commissioner Sylvia said he thought that in order to raise rates as was being contemplated, the opinions of the five should be unanimous and he asked if there was any disagreement. The being none, he made a motion to raise water rates from \$280/year/household to \$400/year/household. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion, and the vote was 3-0 in favor. Commissioner Sylvia if there was any dissent regarding the \$100/year/household

surcharges. There being none, he made another motion to assess a \$100/year/household surcharge for future capital improvements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gilbert, and the vote was 3-0 in favor.

Commissioner Sylvia said the he thought that new water connections should be required to pay for & install water meters, and that even though the District had not yet settled on a particular meter vendor and model that \$500 should be added to the connection fee for that purpose. He then made a motion to raise the Water Connection Installation Application fee from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Commissioner Cornock seconded the motion, and the vote was 3 to 0.

There being no other business before the Board, Commissioner Gilbert made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded be Commissioner Cornock, and the vote was 3-0 in favor of adjournment. The time was at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Sylvia

Approved:  
Deborah Gilbert, Co-Chair  
(signature on original)

Bob Hutchinson, Commissioner  
(signature on original)

Karen Booth, Commissioner  
(signature on original)

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