



EMERALD LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MAY 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Chair Gilbert at 7:05 PM. In attendance were Commissioners Bob Hutchinson and Karen Booth, and Treasurer Christine Barss. The Pledge Of Allegiance was recited, and there was a moment of silence for our military personnel

ADMINISTRATIVE

Commissioner Gilbert read the payments and payroll manifests. Commissioner Gilbert made a motion to accept the manifests as read. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson; and the vote was 3 to 0.

There was a brief discussion regarding the application by the District for NH-OEM/FEMA grants related to the recent flooding in April. President Bush had declared NH eligible to receive aid to cover damages suffered during the period from April 15th to April 23rd, and paperwork has been filed so that the District will be eligible. State and Federal disaster assistance personnel are expected to start arriving the week of May 7th to view damages and accept damage repair invoices. It was also mentioned that there is a program to certify local Disaster Response personnel.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Gilbert brought up the subject of the District Communications Policy, and that the policy has been in place for a long time. She said that the policy is that District officer's requests for information or assistance from legal counsel, contractors, consultants, or other local, state, and/or federal personnel should be directed to the Chair. She said the purpose of the policy is to control costs; prevent duplication of efforts, and to assure that requests are consistent with other District policies and procedures.

Commissioner Gilbert brought up the subject of office hours and mentioned that posted Saturday hours were being replaced by Saturday hours by appointment only due to minimal demand. She asked Commissioners Booth & Hutchinson to select some hours that would be convenient for them. Commissioner Booth selected 6:30 to 8 PM on Mondays, and Commissioner Hutchinson selected 6 to 8 PM on Wednesdays.

Commissioner Gilbert also handed out work assignments, placing Commissioner Hutchinson in charge of park maintenance, and Commissioner Booth in charge of the outlet dam and lake level maintenance, as well as answering Right To Know Requests (RTKRs)

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

There was a question as to who would be the new Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gilbert

said there was no requirement to have a different Chair than that the Board had had previously.

A comment was made that there appeared to be a water main leak near the corner of Old Lantern Road & Emerald Drive.

There was a discussion as to whether Emerald Lake and its residents could apply for disaster assistance and aid in the aftermath of the flooding that occurred in April. Paul Sylvia said he had attended a FEMA/NH Office of Emergency Management (NHOEM) briefing on May 3rd and had filled out a form to qualify the Village District for aid. He said that FEMA / NHOEM personnel should be arriving within a week or so to receive documentation of damages. Commissioner Hutchinson said he was going to see what could be done to more effectively manage the lake level. At this point Keith Mello interrupted Commissioner Hutchinson, saying "How are you gonna do that?" Commissioner Gilbert ruled Mello out of order, and warned him against speaking unless he had been recognized. Mello continued to be disruptive, and Gilbert made a motion to recess and have Mello removed. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion, and Gilbert called for a vote, which was 2 to 1 in favor of recessing. Commissioner Booth said she was against having Mello removed. Commissioner Gilbert rapped the gavel and said that the majority had voted to recess and have Mello removed. She then dialed the Hillsboro Police on her cell phone and reported that Keith Mello was being disruptive and asked for police assistance to have Mello removed. Commissioner Booth rose from her seat, angrily saying that she disagreed with Mello's removal and said she could not tolerate the Board's decision, and she then exited the meeting. Calm was restored, and the meeting was resumed a few minutes later. It was mentioned that residents who had suffered flood damage could apply for aid through the FEMA web site. It was mentioned that Jim Gallager from the DES Dam Bureau would be conducting a study to determine if there were any potential flood mitigation projects that could be undertaken to reduce the likelihood of future flood damages. Matt Taylor, the town's Planning Director, said that the town's resources would be available to assist the Village District. There was a comment made that there is a program to qualify citizens to be disaster assistance workers.

Sue Ireland asked if there could be a growth management plan. Matt Taylor said that the town had implemented one due to the limited ability of the wastewater treatment plant to handle additional inflows, and that while Emerald Lake is not on town sewer, that the same regulations would limit new construction at Emerald Lake. It was also mentioned that Emerald Lake has a moratorium on new construction that limits new water permit application approvals to three per year.

A resident mentioned that he had heard that water bills are going up, and asked how can that be when the water is not drinkable. Former commissioner Paul Sylvia said that the District's water currently meets all federal and state quality standards, and asked the resident where had he heard otherwise. The resident said he had seen signs and postings around the village, but didn't give any specifics. It was explained that the federal standard on allowable arsenic concentration had dropped from 50 parts per billion down to 10 parts per billion in January of 2006. Additionally, many NH towns have arsenic in their bedrock, which can contaminate bedrock and artesian wells, and Emerald Lake, like many NH towns were not in immediate compliance with the stricter standard; but had been in compliance with the new arsenic standard since fall of 2006

There being no further business, Commissioner Gilbert made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hutchinson, and the vote was 2 to 0. The time was 8:40

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Sylvia

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

Bob Hutchinson, Commissioner
(signature on original)

Karen Booth, Commissioner
(signature on original)

[PUBLIC DOCUMENTS](#) [HOME](#)