



**Emerald Lake Village District
Hillsboro, New Hampshire, 03244
Annual Meeting Minutes
Annual Meeting – Saturday, March 20, 2010**

To the inhabitants of Emerald Lake Village District, in the town of Hillsboro, in the County of Hillsborough and the State of New Hampshire, who are qualified to vote on District affairs, here follows the 2010 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Voting polls were located at the Hillsboro-Deering Elementary School, Hillcat Drive, Hillsboro, NH 03244. Moderator Robert Burton declared polls open at 10:00a.m. The polls were closed by Moderator Robert Burton at 12:00pm.

The meeting opened at 1:00p.m. with Moderator Robert Burton announcing the results of the voting for the Emerald Lake Village District Board.

Commissioner (3 year term) Bob Hutchinson-46 votes. Ran unopposed.

Secretary/Treasurer (1 year term) Sue Hutchinson-43 votes. Lisa Lenart-1 vote. Denise DeForest 1 vote.

Moderator (1 year term) Robert Burton-40 votes. Rich Netto-2 votes. Jim Coffey 1 vote. Karen Booth-3 votes and Ray Stankunas 1 vote.

District Clerk (1 year term) Tricia Stefanelli-46 votes. Ran unopposed.

Robert Burton asked permission for District Administrator Jim Coffey and Jenna Rzasa from Tata and Howard our water systems engineers to speak. Permission was granted.

Article 1. To choose one Commissioner for three years, one Moderator for one year, one Clerk for one year and one Treasurer for one year. (To Be Voted On By the Official Ballot)

No questions. No discussion. Article #1 Passed.

Article 2. To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eight Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$800,000) (gross budget) for the construction of new water mains, and other directly related activities as recommended in the 2009 Water System Master Plan, involving Patten Hill Road, Pine Glen Road, Gould Pond Road and other streets; and to borrow in the name of the municipality by issuance of serial notes or bonds, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA Chapter 32) a sum not to exceed \$800,000 for the purpose of defraying the cost of the foregoing, and to authorize the district's officials to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon.

Explanation: This appropriation is for the most critical part of the needed improvements to the water distribution system.

Various grants are presently being pursued to reduce costs to the users.

A two-thirds majority vote is required. Recommended by the Board of Commissioners.

Article #2 Passed. 36 Yes. 7 No.

Moderator Robert Burton asked for a motioned for Article #2 to be accepted as read.

A motion to accept the article as read came from the floor and Commissioner Denise DeForest seconded the motion.

Commissioner Bob Hutchinson then moved to amend the amount of Article #2 from \$800,000.00 to \$2,400,000.00.

Commissioner Denise DeForest seconded the motion.

Administrator Jim Coffey and Project engineer Jenna Rzasa were asked by the Commissioners to explain the Article, and the need to amend the amount.

DISSCUSSION:

Jim said the original Article asked for \$800,000.00 which would require a second appropriation to do the project in two phases. Asking for the Article to read 2.4 million dollars instead would allow us to possibly receive for more State Aid by ranking higher in their point scoring. He said the bigger the project the more aid you receive. Also, we are 8th on the State list for aid. Jim said we wouldn't notice an increase in our water bill for at least two years. He also said we wouldn't start the project unless we get at least 30% of the costs in grants. He also said 30% is most likely the worst case scenario and that we could probably do better. Jenna Rzasas said we have a State Revolving Fund application with DES (Department of Environmental Services). She said the more components we have in our application, pumps, meters etc. Maximize our "green points". The State takes into consideration the median income of Hillsboro. She said verbally we have received some favorable information. Increasing the project to 2.4 million dollars would allow us to do the project as a whole.

Resident Martha Caron asked about the relationship between the two amounts as written. Jenna explained all areas listed in the article plus Moccasin Trail, Rabbit Path, Turtle Bridge Crossing and Sunrise Place would also be included in the project. Martha then asked how voting on the 2.4 million dollars would affect the tax rate. Jim Coffey said the tax rate would not be affected as this is a water project and it affects the water fund only. He said right now we have 529 billable customers. Taking this into consideration that breaks down to \$3,175.80 per customer over a 20 year period, resulting in about \$158.79 per year. He also said the cost for repairing water lines each year is costly. In 2008 the District paid \$36,634.28 in repairs and in 2009 about \$23,000.00 or \$24,000.00. You wouldn't have these costs with a new system. He also said the residents wouldn't start paying for this system until we get the money and aid from the State. He estimates we'd start paying in about two years.

Resident Keith Huber said at the Budget hearing we were told we would have maps, etc. to view at the Annual Meeting. He said according to the numbers in the budget report asking for 2.4 million dollars is 40% more. Where does this total come from and do we have graphs to look at. Jenna Rzasas explained the meters totaling \$600,000.00 were added to the total. This is all part of the Water Master Plan required by DES.

Resident Roger Boisvert asked if this project would improve the quality of the water. Joe D'Amore of Water Systems Operators was asked by Commissioner Bob Hutchinson to answer the question. Joe said there is nothing wrong with the water quality. With this new system you are less likely to run out of water. He also said with the new system you would have better water flow which would maintain the water quality.

Roger then asked about the longevity of the project. Jenna Rzasas said the life expectancy is 50 to 100 years. She said the size of the piping, the materials used and the soils surrounding the lines are all factors. We want to replace lines not rehab them. Jim Coffey said having this loop around the lake will increase the quantity of water.

Resident Dick Baldwin asked if we were replacing the \$800,000.00 with the 2.4 million.

Treasurer Sue Hutchinson said we will not start any project unless we have the money first. She said the State of New Hampshire may jump in and take over the project if we don't act on our own and they are estimating a 2.7 million dollar cost. She also said approving this new amount will save us from asking for more money next year. She also said DES is requiring us to install meters in the next five years.

Resident David Stefanelli asked what the State would do vs. our plan. He asked if the board could elaborate on this. Jenna Rzasas said in the Master Plan meters are a condition on any new wells. She backed up Sue Hutchinson's comment that DES does require meters in the next five years.

Jim Coffey said now is a good time to act on this project as you can get some good bids [from contractors] now.

Resident Nan McCarthy asked if we would be paying \$700.00 a year for water plus meters. Jim Coffey answered no. He said the increase projected would be for the present billing system. When the meters are in use customers would be charged a base rate plus a usage fee. We would have to go through at least a one year cycle to determine the base rate. Jim said there will be public hearings on this issue when the time comes.

Resident Dick Baldwin asked if we could move to question the Article.

A discussion between the moderator, the board and the residents regarding amending procedures took place.

It was then explained that the vote to be taken was on the motion to amend the article from \$800,000 to \$2,400,000. A yes vote means that article 2 now has a new value but has not been voted on. A no vote would mean Article 2 remains unchanged. The moderator asked if there was any discussion on moving the question and there was none. The motion to amend was approved by voice vote.

After the discussion and decision to amend the article was made the amount in Article #1 was now reading 2.4 million dollars.

Resident Linda Caruso asked if the meters on homes would come out of pocket or be funded. Commissioner Troy Cornock answered it would come out of the meter fund.

Resident Dennis Giakoumis asked how this new system will stand up to future building. Jim Coffey said as long as building is done in proper areas it should have no effect.

Moderator Robert Burton asked if there was any more discussion. There was none and he explained the ballot procedure and announced that the polls will be open for the vote on Article #2 and would remain open for one hour.

Article 3. To hear the reports of the Village District Officers, Auditors, Agents, Committees or other officers heretofore chosen or appointed; or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Majority vote required.

Moderator Robert Burton read Article #3 to be accepted as read.

Motion to accept article 3 by Commissioner Denise DeForest.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Troy Cornock.

Jim Coffey wanted to let people know ahead of time there was a mistake on Article #5. 2009 should read 2010.

No questions No discussion. Article #3 Passed.

Article 4. To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and sixty-eight Thousand, Two Hundred and fifty-seven Dollars (\$168,257) for the operating expenses of the district including General Government, Streets, Bridges and Recreation, Debt Service, Operating Transfers Out and all other current expenses of the district. **Majority vote required.**

Commissioner Denise DeForest moved Article #4 to be accepted as read.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Troy Cornock.

No questions. No discussion. Article #4 Passed.

Article 5. To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and seventeen Thousand, Six Hundred and sixty-one Dollars (\$217,661) for the purpose of operating the Water Department during 2009; said funds to be offset by the income to the Water Department of an equal amount. **Majority vote required.**

Commissioner Denise DeForest moved Article #5 to be accepted as read.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Troy Cornock.

No questions. No discussion. Article #5 passed.

Resident Dick Baldwin asked that the Moderator make a decision as to whether we should raise hands or have a voice vote. The Moderator said a show of hands.

Article 6. To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of making capital improvement to the water distribution and other components of the water system as required; said funds to be offset by the income to the Water Department of an equal amount. **Majority vote required.**

Commissioner Denise DeForest moved Article #6 to be accepted as read.

Commissioner Troy Cornock seconded the motion.

No questions. No discussion. Article #6 Passed.

Article 7. To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$250,000) for the purpose of replacing the bridge at the outflow of Gould Pond over Sand Brook. Said funds to come from a \$150,000 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant, Fifty Thousand from the 2009 Undesignated Fund Balance and Fifty Thousand from General Taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the bridge is completed or by December 31, 2012, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by the Board of Commissioners. Majority vote required.

Commissioner Denise DeForest moved Article #7 to be accepted as read.

Commissioner Troy Cornock seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Jim Coffey explained the new bridge would be a box culvert with three or four times the water flow than we have now. FEMA has come to the look at the bridge. Commissioner Bob Hutchinson and Jim have attended classes and seminars this past year concerning bridge loans and funds. Jim explained that the District has applied for a \$150,000.00 FEMA grant. The funds would come from areas listed in the Article.

Resident Martha Caron asked why the Gould Pond Bridge is in this article. Jim said it's the Gould Pond outflow not the bridge itself.

Article #7 Passed.

At 2:42pm, Moderator Robert Burton announced the voting results of Article #2.

This article was a ballot vote with 2/3 majority required.

Voting results were 36 Yes. 7 No. Article #2 Passed.

At 2:45 p.m., Moderator asked for a motion adjourn the Emerald Lake Village District Annual Meeting.

Commissioner Denise DeForest moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Troy Cornock seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by ELVD District Clerk, Patricia Stefanelli

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