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Meeting Minutes
Emerald Lake Village District (ELVD) Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 22, 2023

Board Attendees

Brett Taber, Commissioner (Chair)
Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner
Sarah Murphy, Commissioner
Carolyn Renken, Treasurer
Sara Auger, Clerk
Jim Riddle, Moderator

Moderator, Jim Riddle, opened voting for officials at 10:00am.

No Absentee Ballots were received to open.

Moderator, Jim Riddle, closed voting at 12:00pm (noon).

Moderator, Jim Riddle, called the 2023 Annual Meeting for Emerald Lake Village District to order at 12:30pm. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Riddle gave a bit on his background and went over rules for the meeting.

Read **Article 01: To Elect Officers.** To choose one Commissioner for a three-year term; one Clerk for a one-year term; one Treasurer for a one-year term; one Moderator for a one-year term. This article was voted on by an official ballot.

Results were read by Moderator, Jim Riddle, as following:

Commissioner (3-Year Term): Sara Auger with 22 votes and Sarah Murphy with 11 votes.

Treasurer (1-Year Term): Carolyn Renken with 30 votes and a write-in for Mark Rodier with 1 vote.

Clerk (1-Year Term): All write-in votes as follows: Sara Auger with 8 votes, Rick Rose with 4 votes, Tricia Stefanelli with 3 votes, Sarah Murphy with 2 votes, Laurie Huber with 1 vote and Brett Taber with 1 vote.

Moderator (1-Year Term): All write-in votes as follows: Jim Riddle with 11 votes, Keith Huber with 3 votes, Dave Stefanelli with 3 votes and Sarah Murphy with 1 vote.

Read **Article 02: \$700,000 for the Purpose of Treating Hummingbird Well.** To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700,000 (gross budget) for the purpose of developing/ installing an arsenic treatment system and building necessary to support the hummingbird well site facility, and authorize the District Commissioners to: (a) issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and determine the rate of interest thereon from the NH State Revolving Loan Fund in an amount not more than \$385,000 in accordance with the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) from the NH State Revolving Fund; and (b) Accept and expend one or more grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund in the amount of \$140,000 and \$175,000 from the Groundwater Trust Fund. The Board of Commissioners recommends this article. (3/5 ballot vote required.)

Motion to move article 02 by Commissioner Taber and seconded by Carolyn Renken. Commissioner Taber then spoke to this article, pointing out that while Hummingbird well is not currently in violation, it has seen an increase in arsenic levels in recent years. The state has lowered the arsenic threshold from 10ppb to 5ppb also in recent years. Getting treatment in place for this well is being proactive, while funding is available now, out of the \$700,000 gross budget, 76% of this project is funded by grants and loan forgiveness. The total State Revolving funds would be \$385,000 and then 50% loan forgiveness would come off of that at the end of the project because of the completed 2021 Income Survey. If we wait until in violation, and are forced to do this project in the future, funding may not be available and we would be paying full project cost.

Resident question, Matthew Cook, asked if all our wells are connected to one location? How much area does Hummingbird well cover?

Commissioner Taber responded, Hummingbird well is the only well that currently pumps directly into the system. Patten Hill, all of these wells, go into the tank as a blended average. Mary Rowe and Meetinghouse wells go to the treatment center before going into the system. A scada system would identify points of use. Arsenic is naturally occurring in the ground. Hummingbird well is our 2nd biggest producing well.

Resident follow-up question, Matthew Cook, will this add to maintenance cost?

Commissioner Taber stated he sees added maintenance costs to include electrical and heating costs for the building.

Moderator, Jim Riddle, then opened the voting for Article 02 by ballot vote at 12:47pm. The meeting recessed for 10 minutes, resuming at 12:57pm. The voting for Article 02 closed at 1:50pm.

Read **Article 03: \$268,244 for General Operating Budget.** To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$268,244 for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Board of Commissioner recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Motion to move article 03 by Commissioner Kardaseski, seconded by Melissa Taber. Commissioner Kardaseski spoke to this article. The board has worked long and hard to keep the budget as low as possible. Noting the biggest changes as the price of fuel has gone up and another big change is the audit up 30%, this is due to the federal funding received and an additional audit required, also Bookkeeper fees are up with this additional work. Highway and streets are up due to the cost of fuel and tree service budget has been increased as it was minimal before. Went on to explain Calcium Chloride numbers - the district had to purchase a larger bulk than in the past and now has 3 years worth stored or more, this is used on the roads for dust control. Engineering on culverts is up, we have seen an increased number in need of repair. On Culture and recreation, we are hoping to start replacing wood picnic tables with commercial grade each year. Overall the general budget is up 6.05%. To offset this, the board cut the amount of money proposed for 2023 capital reserve fund deposits. When considering the capital reserve funds in the total, the general budget is down -1.59%.

Resident question, Susan Ireland, who does the sub contracted road work?

Commissioner Kardaseski responded, this budget line is for anything above and beyond the monthly maintenance contract with our road agent, such as additional culvert cleanouts.

Moderator Jim Riddle asked all those in favor to say "Aye", and then all those opposed say "no". The "Ayes" have it, article 03 passed.

Read, **Article 04: \$592,507 for Water Department Operating Budget.** To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$592,507 for the purpose of operating the Water Department, including debt services. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. The Board of Commissioner recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Motion to move article 04 by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Kardaseski. Commissioner Taber spoke to this article. There have been great improvements over the last year. Last year we thought we would get 3 roads done and got 8.5 done instead, temporary lines will be installed next week with work resuming May 1. The water main replacement project has come in under budget. This year had to balance the budget with the 2021 new loan for the roads included now for this year, and even with this new loan added we were able to keep it low by adjusting other items that should improve with the new water main lines installed. The bottom line on the water budget is an 8.5% increase. Similar to the general budget, we kept proposed capital reserve funds lower to offset the increase. The increase to the water bill for this calendar year is about a \$30 increase total for the year.

Resident question, Susan Ireland, what is the difference between trucking of water and water bought? Commissioner Taber responded to this, Trucking of water is the fee to truck, haul any volume of water and labor associated with this, versus water bought is the volume of water cost.

Resident question, Joanne Staples, what is the level it needs to be at for trucking in water? Is there more water being produced now?

Commissioner Taber responded, the tank high/low is at 19.5/18.5ft and we have not been able to sustain even the low end in recent years. If the tank is below 16 feet, the board starts making preparations for trucking in water, especially if prior to a weekend as they do not truck in over weekends. Certain high elevation homes, when the tank gets to 11 feet or lower, the ability to sustain pressure no longer happens. If the population is high, such as over summer, we could need two trucks in a week. If only one truck we can only get in 6 deliveries in a day, with 6,000 gallons in each truck. We are seeing less water loss, 50,000/week less water loss compared to the first 4 months of this year vs. last year. We will monitor to see if this continues and we can sustain further.

Resident, Mathew Cook, question on what the cost is for trucking in water?

Commissioner Taber answered and went over various costs associated such as it can be \$1,500-\$3,000/day just on transportation and labor to truck in water, then we have additional labor involved depending on which location, and can need 2 on site to monitor water volume, adding to labor costs further. Then, the actual cost of the water. This year and last year have budgeted for this, as in 2020 got caught with nothing in the budget for this and spent \$150,000 that year to truck in water.

Resident question, Vicki Clark, wondering what Eastman Beach well cost? What is the status? Commissioner Taber, we are still going through permitting and engineering, and not as fast as any would like. There has been no additional expenses this year, next will be a final full volume test and what a financial model will be for treatment.

Resident, Paula Jones, brought up a concern on how fast the trucks go that haul in the water, lots of kids in the area and worried about how fast the trucks drive down the streets in the district.

Commissioner Taber responded that he has spoken to the company about this and can reach out to Hillsboro PD as Patten Hill is a town owned road.

Resident, Joanne Staples, had a question on leak repair budget line, are we getting less leaks at this point?

Commissioner Taber responded that we are hoping to focus more on leak detection this year which is a labor cost. The thought is with the improvements we will see less leaks and, focus energy on finding and repairing leaks with leak detection, to save on larger costs such as trucking in water. Now watching for the weaker areas of the system which are the roads that have not been replaced yet and residential lines depending on how old they are. 3 years ago we had 4 zone meters and now we have 8, with a 9th being installed this summer. This greatly improved the amount of homes now monitored and being able to react to finding leaks quicker. A scada system would show in real time, with 10 minute updates, versus now seeing 24 hours later.

Moderator Jim Riddle asked all those in favor to say "Aye", and then all those opposed say "no". The "Ayes" have it, article 04 passed.

Read, **Article 05: Appropriate \$22,500 to General Capital Reserve Funds.** To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$22,500 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds as noted below:

- Roads and Bridges Capital Reserve Fund (550) - \$20,000.00
- Dam Repair and Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (678) - \$2,500

The Board of Commissioners recommends this article. (Majority vote required). This will affect the tax rate by .24 per thousand.

Motion to move article 05 by Commissioner Kardaseski, seconded by Melissa Taber. Commissioner Kardaseski spoke to this article, as previously spoken on, to keep the general budget low, we decreased the amount asking for Capital Reserve funds. Capital Reserve funds are important because they help us save for the future and it's important to continue to put money into them. At one point we may have enough to complete another water main line replacement without having to borrow the money. The Dam also needs to be upgraded, this fund has just been started in the last couple of years and will need maintenance.

Resident question, Joanne Staples, how much is in the roads and bridges fund? Commissioner Kardaseski responded, starting on page 19 of the Annual Report, it shows current balances. Total for Roads and Bridges is at \$116,054.82.

Resident, follow-up question, Joanne Staples, can we make it 15,000 instead of \$20,000 for the deposit?

The board advised she is welcome to make a motion. Commissioner Taber spoke to this saying it was reduced by 50% already from what was deposited last year, to reduce overall costs and still keep the momentum going. We recently had a portion on Ravenhead that had to be shut down due to a failed culvert, having money in capital reserve funds helps offset or fix issues like this.

A motion was made by Joanne Staples to lower the roads and bridges capital receive fund deposit from \$20,000 to \$15,000. Seconded by Matthew Cook. This would make the total for Article 05 at \$17,500 (instead of \$22,500).

Moderator Jim Riddle asked all those in favor to say "Aye", and then residents asked for it to be completed by raising your green voting paper. Supervisors of the Checklist then counted votes, with results as: 3 in favor and 20 opposed, motion failed.

Moderator Jim Riddle announced Article 05 is now back to the original article as presented and asked all those in favor to say "Aye", and then all those opposed say "no". The "Ayes" have it, article 05 passed as originally presented.

Read, **Article 06: Raise and appropriate \$34,000 for Water System Capital Reserve Funds.** To see if the Village District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,000 to be added to the previously established Water Capital Reserve Funds as noted below, with said funds to come from water funds:

- Water Capital Reserve Fund (913) - \$25,000.00
- Matching Funds for Grants Capital Reserve Fund (677) - \$2,000
- Water Meter Capital Reserve Fund (623) - \$7,000

The Board of Commissioners recommends this article. (Majority vote required).

Motion to move article 06 by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Kardaseski. Commissioner Taber spoke to this article, stating one of the current grants will be used for an engineering study on residential metering, the capital reserve funds can help offset any loans. Next year will be the last year for any additional funding we are seeing now. If we do not get funding, most roads left for water main replacements are 400,000-600,000ft.

There was no additional comment, Moderator Jim Riddle asked all those in favor to say "Aye", and then all those opposed say "no". The "Ayes" have it, article 06 passed.

Read, **Article 07: Any other business to come before the annual meeting.** To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting. Given under our hands this Sixth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Three by the Board of Commissioners, Emerald Lake Village District. We certify and attest that on or before April Sixth, 2023, we posted a true and attested copy of the within warrant at the place of meeting, and like copies at the usual posting places, and delivered the original to the town clerk.

Resident question, Melissa Taber, on Wright Pierce working on Eastman well and if this well is ever going to produce or work for us? We should be able to park at the beach.

Commissioner Taber responded, just as concerned with trying to move forward as this ties directly into with other projects to not have to redo work. A full volume lab test will be needed at cost of \$15,000-\$20,000 to see different treatments. Waiting for costs, expected this month.

Resident question, Jim Riddle, when the well is operational, will residents be able to park?

Commissioner Taber replied, No, the current setbacks will not allow that.

Resident question, Matthew Cook, what was the results on the fireworks?

Commissioner Kardaseski responded, last Thursday evening, the Board of Commissioners signed an ordinance that bans fireworks on district owned property, this includes all four beaches. The new ordinance and fact sheet is available at the clerks table. This will be enforced by the police department and not the Commissioners. New signage and communication coming.

Resident question, Joanne Staples, what about seasonal residents?

Commissioner Taber responded that communication methods will continue. Firework displays can still be done on private residents' own property.



Emerald Lake Village District

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FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

The display, use, and ignition of all classes of pyrotechnic devices (fireworks) shall be **prohibited** on all property owned by the Emerald Lake Village District ("District") and all public beaches in the District; including, but not limited to Eastman, Meetinghouse, Emerald, and Hummingbird Beach.

This ordinance may be enforced by any sworn law enforcement officer that has jurisdiction. First offense: \$100.00 fine; second offense: \$250.00 fine. Any violation may be subject to other fines and/or penalties as provided by state or local laws, rules, and ordinances. Any fireworks used in violation of this ordinance are subject to confiscation pursuant to RSA 160-C:5.

This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority set forth in RSA 31:39-d (Local Ordinance Citations); RSA 41:11-a (Town and District Property) and RSA 52:8 (Authority of District Commissioners); and RSA 160-C:6 and 11 (Prohibition of Fireworks Displays).

This ordinance shall supersede Section 3.16 of the ELVD "Beach and Lake Rules and Regulations" which reads as follows:

3.16 Fireworks permissible by law are allowed to be used on the beaches but only during hours after dark although no later than 10:30 pm; and must be set off only under safe conditions away from trees or flammable materials with access to water in case of fire, and with sufficient adult persons present to supervise and prevent any damage or danger to others. All trash, packaging and remnants of spent fireworks must be removed after use.

This ordinance shall be effective on April 21, 2023.

**ENVIRONMENTAL
 Fact Sheet**



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WD-BB-60

2008

Fireworks and New Hampshire's Lakes

Concerns of Health and Environmental Effects

There are growing concerns about the use of fireworks around New Hampshire's lakes. As fun and enjoyable as fireworks can be, they may be causing more damage than you know. Aside from the obvious danger of operating controlled explosives, what you may not realize is the effects fire works have environmentally, economically and health wise.



Firework Ingredients and their Dangers

Fireworks are composed of many different elements, each contributing to the noise, color or propellant. While these ingredients combine to form a beautiful spectacle, many of them are very dangerous. Here's a list of a few common firework ingredients, their use, and what makes them so dangerous.

Toxic Element	Fireworks Usage	Toxic Effect of Fallout Dust & Fumes
Lead Nitrate/Dioxide/Chloride	oxidizer	Bioaccumulation; developmental danger for children and the unborn; may remain airborne for days; poisonous to plants and animals
Barium	glittering greens	Extremely poisonous, radioactive
Lithium	blazing reds	Slightly toxic
Rubidium	purple colors	Slightly radioactive; can replace calcium in body
Strontium	blazing reds	Can replace calcium in body; can be radioactive
Copper compounds	blues	Dioxin pollution
Aluminum	brilliant whites	Contact dermatitis
Ammonium Perchlorate	propellant	Can contaminate ground and surface waters; can disrupt thyroid functions
Cadmium	firework colors	Extremely toxic, carcinogenic; can bioaccumulate
Potassium Nitrate	in black powder	Toxic dusts, carcinogenic sulfur-coal compounds
Sulfur Dioxide	gaseous byproduct of sulfur combustion	Acid rain from sulphuric acid affects water sources, vegetation and causes property damage

The Effects Fireworks have on You and Nature

The fallout of these different chemicals can affect you both directly and indirectly. Once a firework explodes in the sky, it does many things. The gases from the rocket and the explosion are released into the atmosphere, where they are inhaled by humans and animals, and hurt the ozone layer. In addition to the gases, the debris and burning metals fall back to earth where they litter the area, contaminate aquatic ecosystems, and poison the wildlife, eventually working their way up the food chain.



How Phosphorus in Fireworks Impacts the Water

It has taken years to determine the dangers associated with the many ingredients in fireworks. Up until very recently, phosphorous (also found in fertilizers) was highly popular in fireworks until the realization of its associated problems to the environment. Although most manufacturers no longer incorporate more than trace amounts of phosphorus in fireworks, every little bit added to a lake can influence water quality. Phosphorus accelerates a process called eutrophication, which is the process that results in increased biomass, decreased lake clarity, decreased bottom oxygen, and increases the likelihood of cyanobacteria scums. Algal and cyanobacteria blooms caused by phosphorus introductions impact fisheries, drinking water supplies and impact the health of people who recreate in the waters as well as pets and any animal that drinks these waters.

The Final Impact

Altogether the damaging effect fireworks have is overwhelming. They impact water quality by affecting the odor and taste of drinking water. On the economic side, excessive algal and cyanobacteria growth due to phosphorus or contamination due to firework fallout increases water treatment costs, degrades fishing and boating activities, and impacts tourism and property values. The cost of damage done to property, the litter and the effect upon both wildlife and human life is incalculable. The Department of Environmental Services urges you to consider the effects of fireworks and perhaps find an alternative to a problem that is only growing with time.



For more information, please go to these links:

www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Falls/9200/toxic_fireworks.html

www.serconline.org/phosphorus/background.html

Resident comment, David Stefanelli. He has been the webmaster for the district website for the last 15 years and puts all the communications on the website as quickly as possible. Recently, posted about the fireworks safety issues on the ELVD Inclusive FB group (not run by the board) and people are saying they will continue to do whatever they want. Another resident, Steve Fitzherbert (not present), wrote lies about him on his post about the mailboxes now being on the wrong side of the lake, and now have a gate at the beach and the trail cam in the woods. Mr. Stefanelli would like the record to state that he had and has nothing to do with these items or issues.

At this time it was 1:50pm and Moderator, Jim Riddle, announced the voting for Article 02 was closed, it was open for 1 hour and 3 minutes.

Resident comment, Joanne Staples, went to the town meeting last year about speeding on Gould pond, there is no speed limit sign.

Commissioner Taber, stated this is a town owned road but noted this comment.

Resident comment, Susan Ireland, is it correct that the state does not do lake testing but Commissioners do? In the commissioner report it says we had a cyanobacteria outbreak but also says no adverse test results?

Commissioner Taber responded that yes, the commissioners do the testing, three times a summer, monthly in June, July and August. Each beach is tested in two areas, on each side of the beach from swimming areas and then brought to the lab for testing. If a testing comes back adverse, we post as due diligence and people can use at their own risk. Lab tests are for E.Coli. Cyanobacteria outbreaks when seen or reported, are investigated by reviewing areas and posting as necessary. Last year we did have one outbreak of Cyanobacteria reported and it was during one of the hottest days of the summer, it was posted at the beaches.

Resident comment, Melissa Taber, Thank you David Stefanelli for the job he does on our website.

At this time, results were verified and read by Moderator, Jim Riddle, on Article 02 voting. There were 23 total voters. The article passed the 3/5 majority ballot vote needed with 23 (yes) and 0 (no).

Resident comment, Melissa Taber, Thank you Bow Smith, our road agent, for the job he does on our roads.

Commissioner Kardaseski announced her resignation after this meeting, with her letter of resignation read and accepted at last Thursday's meeting. Stating anyone who has never been Commissioner has no idea what it takes and the time involved, for this reason and due to increased workload with her graphic design business, she submitted her letter of resignation. Therefore, a seat will be open and it would be an appointed position for 1-year, until the next Annual Meeting. If anyone would like to get their feet wet and try out being a commissioner, this would be a good chance to do that. A standing ovation was received for her contribution over the years to the district.

At this time there was no further business. A motion to adjourn was made by Melissa Taber at 2:00pm. Seconded by Commissioner Kardaseski, all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Written by: Sara Auger, Clerk

Approved by:

Brett Taber, Commissioner

, Commissioner