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Meeting Minutes
Emerald Lake Village District (ELVD) Public Loan Hearing & Warrant Review
Friday March 31, 2023

Board Attendees

Brett Taber, Commissioner (Chair)
Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner
Sarah Murphy, Commissioner
Sara Auger, Clerk

Residents - Paula Jones, Mckayla Baird

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Taber at 6:30pm on March 31, 2023. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call to confirm a quorum of Commissioners.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$700,000 to be used for the development, installation, and upgrades for the Hummingbird well site location. Additionally a review of proposed warrant articles will occur.

The project fund approved cost is up to \$700,000 total. However, the district is approved for \$140,000 in ARPA grant money and a \$175,000 DWGTF grant. This would leave \$385,000 to apply for the State Revolving fund, of which 50% for loan forgiveness will come off at the project completion because of the completed Income Survey. This leaves \$192,500 seeking for a loan the district would have to pay, out of the \$700,000 project value. The Hummingbird well site project warrant article will require a 3/5 majority ballot vote. A final application is due to the state by May 1st. If approved, begin work with engineering quoting, seeking loan options 5-20 years and rates currently showing 0.79-2.5% depending on length of loan. The district is locked into rates prior to rate increases.

Project will include: Land clearing, site work, pipe changes, electrical upgrades, moving wells 7, 8 ,9 electrical to existing building, Arsenic PH tank building, repipe through building with current flow, generator move, new well wires, engineering and contingencies.

The reason for this project is being proactive with recent arsenic levels rising at this site and getting the project done while funds and grants are still available. Completing this upgrade to our water system shows the state further that we have skin in the game. This well (Hummingbird) is the 2nd highest in water production and feeds directly into the system. We have seen numbers consistently at 4-4.5 ppb, with the state level for arsenic now needed to be at 5 ppb or lower to be in compliance. This well currently does not have any treatment.

Next, the board moved on to warrant articles. For this year, there are a total of 7 Warrant Articles. Article 3 will be for the General Budget totaling \$268,244 not including capital reserve funds. Article 4 will be for the Water Budget totaling \$592,507, including debt, not including capital reserve funds. The biggest increases to the budget include a 2nd audit needed for ARPA grant funds and the bond repayment for the 2021 water main replacement beginning. General capital reserve funds are seeking \$20,000 for roads and bridges and \$2,500 to dam repair/maintenance. Water capital reserves seeking \$25,000 to water, \$2,000 to matching grant fund and \$7,000 to water meter fund. It is estimated the water bill will increase by \$30/year.

Residential metering was sought out for funding and the project was not accepted this year. The district is able to continue an engineering study for financial modeling of what residential metering would be, this study to seek this information is currently covered by a grant.

One accomplishment over the past years to the district have been the installation of additional zone meters, this leads to faster leak detection and reaction time. There are currently 541 connections and 470-480 are now monitored by zone meters. Previously only used to be around 350 that were monitored. The state is happy with the district's improvements over the last few years.

The district Annual Meeting will be on April 22, 2023, with voting of officials from 10am- noon and the meeting starting at 12:30 for warrant articles. The meeting will be held at Hillsboro-Deering Elementary school (4 hillcat dr.). Anyone not registered to vote yet can still do so on the day of the Annual meeting from 10am up until noon. Registration closes at noon.

Additional business, a mailing will need to go out for Fluoride annual value and arsenic value needs to go out within 30 days. We will coordinate this with other mailings to save money. A volunteer effort to stuff envelopes will be put out.

The water warrant to the town will need to be changed to \$308,911.

Motion by Commissioner Taber to submit and authorize the board to sign and submit for the sum of \$308,911 as a modification to the water warrant submitted prior to the town. Seconded by Commissioner Kardaseski, all in favor, motion passed.

The MS 636 will be completed and signed to send to Jamie at DRA for a final review.

Motion by Commissioner Kardaseski to preemptively approve signing for the MS 636 and the warrant articles so they can be posted by April 6, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Taber, all in favor, motion passed.

Motion by Commissioner Taber to accept meeting minutes March 21 and March 23, 2023 and February 13, 2023 as written. Seconded by Commissioner Murphy, all in favor, motion passed.

The next district meeting is on April 6th at 6:30. All meetings are open to the public.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:00pm by Commissioner Taber, seconded by Commissioner Kardaseski, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by: _____ Sara Auger, ELVD Clerk

Approved by:

_____ Brett Taber, Commissioner (Chair)

_____ Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner

_____ Sarah Murphy, Commissioner