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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Emerald Lake Village District (ELVD) Public Hearing *Workshop Meeting***  
**Friday, March 10, 2023**

**Board Attendees**

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

**Residents** - Ellen Thomas, Bill Clement, Ed Coulter, Chris Reed, Keith Hill, Zak Reinars, Soren Willis

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Taber at 6:30pm on March 10, 2023. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call to confirm a quorum of Commissioners.

The first article to discuss was the moderator position and swearing in of moderator. The potential moderator was not present, Commissioner Murphy will follow up.

Next is the public hearing on reviewing the Water Rules & Regulations. Commissioner Kardaseski went on to explain, it has been close to 2 years the board has been working on the updates that were desperately needed. The fines in place were not sufficient and it is important people do not waste water. The district has changed with more people here and new residents. One change in the rules is on camper use, when in use the person is basically paying for one household but using two. The new rules also highlight the fact that seasonal water turn off/on is waived (no fee). If you fail to do this and your pipes freeze you could be charged a \$1,000 negligence fee & water loss costs.

Soren Willis asked if this meant every time Aquaman comes out we are being charged \$1,000/hr. Commissioner Kardaseski responded, no, they do this service (seasonal turn off/on) while they are here in the district. If you choose not to do this and pipes freeze, then the homeowner could be charged. A leak that could have been avoided would be considered negligence. A lot of

residents think their home is winterized and it is not. The weekend we had extreme cold we saw many pipes freeze. We had one leak in years past that drained the tank 3 feet of water, and had us hauling in water in the winter months. The board can check the daily averages in zones and look for spikes, this means there is a leak.

A resident asked about, what if someone is in the hospital and lives alone and something happens? Commissioner Taber responded you could call the next day to get your water shut off. Resident stated this would not have been possible. Commissioner Taber said instances like this would be reviewed on a case by case basis. The board will not shut off water without contact, since they do not know the heat source of each home. There are 538 homes on our water system currently.

Chris Reed inquired how the board is determining water loss? Commissioner Kardaseski further explained about the zone meters and how the board would determine this. Chris Reed commented how the board comes to this is not in the rules. Commissioner Taber explained the variables in the rules do state the cost the district incurs such as trucking etc, this will vary by volume and all other variables. Zone meters track every 15 minutes, using an averaging such as 750/gallons an hour and then we see 2,000/gallons an hour, this is how we know there is a leak. Then we identify it, do shut offs and locate it based on the data we have. Chris Reed would like to see exactly how to calculate fines for water loss put in the rules.

Metering homes was brought up as a topic of discussion by various residents, this is not in depth in the water rules at this time as we are not metered and this topic will be discussed at another time as this is something down the road still. Estimated costs for residential metering was in the range up to 5 million. Residents commented they are frustrated that they live alone and pay the same amount as someone with 7 kids. Last year metering was a project submitted to the state and the district did not qualify high enough with projects submitted state wide by towns/municipalities. However the board does have a current grant for an engineering and financial modeling for metering, potentially using this asset management for a project submission for next year. Without additional funding we will not be able to get the metering project done with the cost of it.

Commissioner Taber would like residents to recognize that the long term water restriction can not stop yet, to protect the district as a whole.

Chris Reed brought up the hand-held watering can only statement in the rules as what about people that can not hold a watering can? Sorren Willis brought up handicap access to our beaches and to clarify the \$300 RV fee, per house or per RV? Ed Coulter asked, who do we call if there is a 3am water emergency? Residents can call a commissioner, phone numbers on our website, and/or Aquamen who's emergency number is also on the website ([www.elvdnh.com](http://www.elvdnh.com)). Sara Auger noted that the rules and regulations do not state that water hook up permits are non-transferable. The board noted these items.

One new aspect to the water rules and regulations is the Dormant Curb Stop rule which will be published online as well as the Cross Control Connection plan. The board will review the rules one more time with the input from residents and then finish and sign them to put them online.

Next up for discussion was budget prep. Commissioner Taber had called a contractor for an alternative supplier for electricity. Current rate of \$0.11-\$0.14 per kph, this rate changes daily but would be a savings, with no penalty for leaving at any time. For a term up to 36 months, when term is up there is a 5-10 day window to make a change, otherwise rate would go month to month. Would need to be ready when the term is up. Electricity would still be billed through Eversource.

Commissioner Kardaseski made a motion to change our electricity supplier to the best available price for a term of 36 months. Seconded by Commissioner Murphy, all in favor, motion passed.

Next for budget items discussed was the trucking in of water line, the board penciled in the same amount as last year. The water CRF (capital reserve fund) total deposits proposed is \$34,000. This brings the proposed water budget to \$626,507.28. The spring payment would be the same as last fall payment and the fall 2023 water bill payment would be \$600.00. The biggest changes in the budget are the first loan payment hitting the water budget.

The board needs to set a date for the loan bond hearing. There is a single loan for Hummingbird well treatment being proposed. This is a preemptive measure as the arsenic levels were starting to climb, to stay within acceptable levels treatment will be needed. The budget for this project was \$700,000, with \$140,000 in ARPA funds and 50% loan forgiveness means of the \$700,000, \$218,000 would be the payback amount at most, plus interest. The submitted request to the trust fund approved \$175,000 of the project, meaning we are now approved up to \$875,000. Can take all or reduce the borrowing on the SRF. The board feels it is best to move forward with the original \$700,000 to keep numbers matching up and this was the original plan. Interest rates vary by length of loan. For example, a 5 year payback will equal about \$30,000/year and a 10 year payback about \$20,000/year.

The state has issued a Fluoride annual level notice, we are at the secondary level. Within 30 days will need to mail out or send in a certification to the state on when this will be mailed out, such as including it with the annual CCR report. Combining as many mailings as possible saves the district money. Violations can be posted on website and kiosks immediately and then included in a combined mailing later.

The PFAS waiver was for the initial testing only and now required twice a year. This will need to be budgeted for at \$500. Commissioner Taber suggested taking this from maintenance other line in our current proposed budget and Commissioner Murphy suggested adding in the \$500 increasing the water budget to include this.

The 2023 BUDGET HEARING will take place on MARCH 21, 2023 @ 6:30 PM, this is a public hearing with the purpose of reviewing and hearing public input on the 2023 General and Water budget.

Next past due water fines and past due water bills were briefly discussed. A generic letter for any past due will go out with next billing. The commissioners signed the template letters to go out, which will be mailed certified. If already billed once, will get the first letter template, 2nd time, will get the 2nd letter template.

A motion to adjourn at 8:37pm was made by Commissioner Kardaseski, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Sara Auger, ELVD Clerk

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Brett Taber, Commissioner (Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_ Debbie Kardaseski, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_ Sarah Murphy, Commissioner