

## VILLAGE DISTRICT OF EIDELWEISS

### COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 8, 2008

At 9:00 AM Chairman Gloria Aspinall opened the meeting in the District Office. Present were: Commissioner Michael Smith, Ralph Lutjen ; Peter Craugh (Clerk). The meeting was taped by Tim Hughes for Madison TV. Rick Skarinka of NH DES and Mark Graffam were also in attendance.

#### AGENDA

The agenda was approved as printed.

#### PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Steve Pannone reported: Carbide edges for plow blades were received. Brushes for the broom are being shipped. Salt and sand were put on the roads Sunday. Salt delivery was received Tuesday. The issue of the cards for fuel was resolved. Sanded again on Thursday and Friday. Canoes were removed from the beaches. Eight water craft removed. Various equipment repairs and maintenance was accomplished. Arrangements with Kennett Co. for a back up source of diesel fuel were arranged.

Discussion ensued on hiring Jim Everett to shovel out the water stations at \$10 per station. Unless he was able to get there before the water monitors it would be of little use. DPW could do it after road plowing and other priorities. Due to tight budget this issue will not be pursued this year.

Steve wants to do a partial rebuild on the 550 sander to replace a bearing. Ditches will continue to be maintained this week.

#### MINUTES OF December 1, 2008 MEETING

Mike **moved** and Ralph seconded **that the minutes of the December 1,, 2008 be accepted as presented. Motion Passed.**

#### APPEARANCES

Rick Skarinka of the NH DES appeared and commented on the plans submitted to him prepared by Paul Fluet for the impending water projects. Rick stated that he discussed these plans with Paul Fluet. He discussed the plan for next year. Rick stated that SRF (State Revolving Fund) funding will be available to the VDOE for next year. Mike stated that the estimate for the project was about \$500,000, well under what was originally requested. Rick says that VDOE should be conservative in asking funds from the voters. Blasting and

other unknowns should be considered. The SRF application is not considered complete until voter approval is given. Approval for expending monies will be 2 to 3 months after voter approval. Projects cannot start until SRF funding is approved (if this is the method of finance). He anticipates that a load could be in place by May.

Rick suggested that clauses be added to the bid package allowing for material price increases. Current SRF interest is 4.2% for a 20 year term. Rick suggested that we look at Northway Bank if VDOE is pursuing commercial loans. Rick discussed the terms of the loans and payments. If the rate goes down VDOE would get the lower rate. However, if it goes up VDOE would be locked to stated rate. Gloria requested that payment information be forwarded to the VDOE. Rick added that some projects around the state are coming in at lower than estimated projection due to employment issues and people wanting work.

Rick questioned the 120 day completion time and it was stated that this was an arbitrary number. Some design comments were made. He suggested cast in place concrete tanks. There are two other projects in the state and he will forward some information. The cast in place tanks may be more economical due to their labor component. There would be less maintenance as compared to 10 individual tanks. Equipment put in should be designed to last as long as possible. A 50 year life span was suggested. Maintenance should be considered over the life of the equipment or buildings. Competitive bidding or at least several quotes would be required if VDOE were to buy the tanks versus them being part of the contractor's contract. Mike stated the possible economic savings for purchasing the items. Rick mentioned possible liability issues if the item were not part of the contractor's package.

Mike brought up a notice in the publication "*Supply Lines*" about the emergency management plan for large water systems. Rick stated that a plan update is required by March 2009. Rick stated that the format has changes and that sample forms are on the web.

Rick inquired about voter comments. Mark stated that we will not know until the public hearings or on the day of the annual meeting. Ralph commented on the effect of the Madison tax increase. Voters look at the total bill not individual elements. About 65 water users have not paid their bills as of last week. Gloria commented on the water bill increases and acceptance by the voters.

Rick commented on projects in Franconia. The Birch Hill situation was mentioned. Birch Hill is a private PUC regulated company. Rick stated that he thought it was good that the VDOE owned and operated its own system. Rick will further discuss details of proposed plan with Paul Fluet and suggested that Mike or other commissioners attend this discussion. Ralph asked if Rick could be available for the public hearing. Rick said due to schedule Friday nights were bad but he could possibly attend the Annual meeting.

Mark stated that he had issues with the proposed plan both with the tanks and the details. He cannot support it at this time.

Ralph brought up other issues that might affect plan funding such as the replacement of

the “salt shed/garage” building. Voters must consider these possible costs if replacement exceeds insurance monies. The slab is not covered by insurance as part of the loss.

Rick discussed paying for engineering costs and that he did not think these soft costs should be part of a 20 year loan. He said they could be covered by a five year load and that the interest rate was about 1.1 or 1.2%.

Mike asked for water rates for various communities. Rick said that the info was on the web. The commissioners thanked Rick for his comments and attendance. Rick left the meeting.

### **ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

The Accounts payable sheet was presented in the amount of \$78,330.34. Ralph questioned the repairs from Diprizio Motors. The bill was found and question answered. Ralph **Moved** and Mike seconded **that Accounts receivable of \$78,330.34 be paid. Motion Passed.** Checks were then signed.

### **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

#### **Gloria:**

Discussed ordering the crack sealing machine. The vendor needed a certified bank check. The topic of how to pay bills like this was discussed.

Mike **moved** and Ralph seconded **that the VDOE obtain a credit card through our bank for VDOE use. Motion Passed**

Peter asked why we did not go to the original vendor of the crack sealing machine? Everyone thought it was the original vendor but it was pointed out that Jay Buckley found the proposed machine on the web. Info on the original vendor will be identified.

David Rowe expressed interest in filling in as a Water Monitor. Ralph **Moved** and Mike seconded **that David Rowe be accepted as a fill in water monitor. Motion passed.**

A driveway application was received from John Wood , 52 Bern Drive. No checks or bond attached.

Discussion ensued on the use of the Huttwil lot for storage of a modular home. One day storage was acceptable. It was pointed out in the past that VDOE granted one day storage to someone and the house was there for a month.

Gloria requested tax due monies from the Madison selectmen. They said they will do it “ASAP”.

#### **Mike:**

Mike calculated 10,000 gallons per day were used by the bleeders. The bleeders were turned down and he will try to get a new estimate.. Total water usage was 24 Million

gallons per year. Mike will try to estimate the dollar value if bleeder operation.

He mentioned water bill follow-up letter. Discussion on water turn-offs and liens ensued. Gloria suggested that a copy of the applicable RSA be attached to the letter. (RSA 38:31). The attorney will be contacted for wording. Ralph **moved** and Mike seconded **that the water bill reminder letter be sent this week after receiving attorney comments. Motion Passed.**

The Dempsey response on the calculation of water fees was discussed. The calculation figure was slightly revised and the letter will be sent.

The letter to Mrs. Malo on Altdorf was signed indicating that the tree of concern was on her property.

Mike discussed the water use age per connection and that the projected per person numbers are below national averages.

#### **RALPH:**

The building committee met yesterday Two alternatives were discussed a minimum and maximum approach. Do we just replace what we had or erect 2 steel structures. This may exceed insurance settlement dollars. Meeting again next week. Ralph reported discussions at the meeting. The meeting minutes will reflect details.

Ralph will coordinate the issues with part time snow plowers. Liability of sub-contractor versus employee was discussed.

Mike Gervino volunteered his expertise to review insurance papers on the salt shed settlement and possible negotiations. Discussion ensued on how to finance replacement building(s). Ralph commented on proposed warrant articles and acceptance by voters.

Mike **moved** and Ralph seconded **that Mike Gervino review the insurance settlement and discuss with the adjusted after the bid package is prepared. Motion Passed.**

#### **Administration:**

#### **SIGNATURE ITEMS**

Covered above.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Items from LGC, NH Emergency Management and Rural water were in the commissioners packets.

The memo from David Maudsley on open items was reviewed. VDOE received a check from the state (FEMA) in the amount of \$6,802.16. This was further payment on the flooding of last year.

The sand pile for public use has been put out. Steve will be contacted on a policy for access to the salt.

Budget printouts for Village and Water were prepared for review.

### **NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Gloria stated that a non-public session was needed for legal matters and a personnel issue; RSA 91A. Each commissioner voted in the affirmative.

Public session was reopened. Minutes of non-public session were voted to be sealed.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be December 15<sup>th</sup>

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35

Respectfully Submitted,

E. Peter Craugh  
Clerk