

VILLAGE DISTRICT OF EIDELWEISS COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 10, 2010

The Board of Commissioners met on Monday, May 10th, 2010 in the District Office. Present were Commissioners Mike Smith, Gloria Aspinall and Art Tucker. Also present were Peter Craugh (Moderator), Mark Graffam and Steve Pannone(Highway). The meeting was taped by videographer Tim Hughes.

At 9:00 am the meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Smith.

1. Agenda

Gloria Aspinall makes a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Art Tucker seconds the motion and the motion passed.

2. Accounts Payable

3. Minutes

The minutes of May 3 were reviewed. Gloria Aspinall corrects a typo on pg 3. **Gloria Aspinall makes a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Art Tucker seconds the motion and the motion passed.**

4. Highway Department

Steve Pannone delivers a driveway report for 59 Oak Ridge Road. A 12" culvert will be required to direct water down the road. Steve also delivers a purchase order for 53 tines for the York rake at \$15 per or \$795.00. Steve reports on the last week's activity. The snow tires have been removed from the 550 and stored at the equipment garage. The DPW yard was cleaned up. The temporary salt shed structure has been stored at the Cabana. The ledge pack was used behind the DPW building and some was used on Bern Drive and Burgdorf. The winter equipment is being stored away from the building to comply with the well head protection area. All equipment will be moved to the equipment garage once the area is ready. A proposal from Bob Wirling has been received for cleaning up the area and creating a retaining wall to protect the wet lands. Four tires were removed from the stream on Grison. Eidelweiss Drive, Interlaken, and Big Loop were raked. The ditching on Adelboden was worked on to protect the road. Some loam was placed at the flag pole site. The fence will be put up this week. A washout on Forclaz is also to be worked on this week. The rafts will be put out. The crown of the road on West Bergamo at Schwyze is to be graveled. Holes will be cut out at the mail boxes. Art Tucker mentions that pot holes on Como should also be worked. The metal siding is to be placed up top at the equipment garage for storing. Should an entry way covering be manufactured, a piece could be used as a roof. For now, it is to be stored. Art Tucker will be working with Glen Builders on the wet area of the garage. Gloria Aspinall asks Steve about cold patch. The holes at the lower end of Oak Ridge

need to be filled. Steve is given the phone number for the cold patch used last year that worked really well. The purchase of 3 tons is discussed. This amount can easily be used without need to store it. **Gloria Aspinall makes a motion to purchase 3 tons of cold patch, Art Tucker seconds the motion and the motion passed.** The area on Oak Ridge that was ripped up at the edge is discussed. Art Tucker questions Steve on his plan to fix. Steve suggests using the bobcat when it is rented as it would be more stable on the hill than the backhoe. Peter Craugh mentions that there are stabilizer impressions in the pavement in the area as well. It is believed Asplundh trimmed trees there. This will be checked. Art Tucker informs Steve to check the culvert head walls as loose stones were noticed both on Appenval Way and Salins Road.

5. Appearances

Mark Graffam has joined the meeting to request a status of the special assessments review under RSA 38:27. He questions the amount of attorney fees already incurred by the District to review this RSA and its applicability to VDOE. Mike Smith informs Mark that the Board is gathering information at this point about alternative means of future funding for the water system. Mike states that questions on the legal technicalities of the RSA have been addressed with the Attorney. Mark cautions the Board that pursuit of this option could result in a large selling of lots within the District. Mike Smith responds that no decisions have been made, this is just one option being reviewed. Mark Graffam questions if it is being pursued. Art Tucker responds that yes, it is being looked into as well as possible means of fee reductions and/or abatements for green space and unbuildable lots. Mark Graffam responds that all lots are buildable with the proper engineering. Peter Craugh agrees that all lots are classified buildable, but some would be extremely difficult. Art Tucker adds that the topography of some lots would make them questionable to be built upon. Mark Graffam questions Class VI roads and states that they would need to be included in the assessment procedure. He also mentions the \$8,000 hook up fee when the average hook up is less than \$1,000. Mike Smith states the average has been \$1,200; each house is different. Mr. Graffam states that the hook up fee was raised to the \$8,000 to raise capital and now the Board is pursuing additional means. He requests a copy of all e-mails relating to this proposal under RSA 91-A as well as the amount of any legal costs incurred on this matter. All information will be gathered and provided. Mark then questions the purchase of a filing cabinet for Art Tucker's home. He states that no records are to be at an individuals house. Art Tucker responds that he is attempting to keep District information separate from personal information as a filing cabinet could be taken for review by the State in specific circumstances. He is trying to comply with the law by doing this. Gloria Aspinall mentions that at the Annual Meeting, Jay Buckley requested a review of funding options and suggested forming a committee to do so. Gloria had stated at the time that Art Tucker was beginning to review options and that the Water Advisory Board would review. She believes that all options should be looked into. She adds that she met with Ralph Lutjen on an option he is looking into. A solution needs to be found for progress to be made. Art Tucker agrees that several ideas should be reviewed. Mark Graffam asks if any other options are under review besides taxes and fees. He asks if Rick Skarinka has been contacted to discuss betterment funding. Mike Smith informs Mark that the State has not been contacted as the Board is only at early stages of

review. Art Tucker adds that the assessment proposal is not aimed at expansion, it is aimed at needed capital repairs as outlined in the Master Plan. Mark questions how the Board can be looking at undeveloped land to fund improvements for current users. He then asks the Board if funding has been obtained as he is aware from the minutes of the revenue bond issue and denial of the bond by the NH Bond Bank. Mike Smith informs Mark that the bond was written by Laconia Savings Bank, loan documents were received last week. He also states that for future bonds, the bank would prefer funding by taxes. Mike continues with the summation that it is a point of frustration to put together all needed information and then have trouble financing due to changes made on the floor at the Annual Meeting. Mark Graffam asks why the Board moved towards installation of the SCADA, which is very far down the list of priorities outlined within the Master Plan, when other priorities have not yet been handled. Mike Smith outlines the 3 bana system failures that happened last summer that could all directly be related to inappropriate actions on the part of a Fairpoint employee. One failure uncovered the information that a technician, unaware of what the circuit was for, simply disconnected it from the system. He explains that this will help with the security of the system and will be a future cost savings to the District. Gloria Aspinall adds that she feels the Board should vote on the assessment matter as to whether or not it should be pursued further. She states that people with lots do not want to pay an extra assessment. Art Tucker discusses the potential to stabilize water rates by offsetting some costs secondary to the assessment monies collected. Mark Graffam questions if this is not a form of a tax. Art Tucker responds that general taxation is unfair to persons with large lots or more expensive houses, views, waterfront, etc. He states that water is considered a benefit and that a good part of that benefit belongs to the ability to hook in from what is now a vacant lot. Gloria Aspinall states that it could take a number of years to build a good reserve through this manner, especially if people are against paying it. Art Tucker mentions that possible repercussion of non-payment still need to be reviewed. He adds that persons could merge lots, or possibly set up an abatement for keeping the lot as green space. If the lot was built upon, fees would be charged at that point. Mark Graffam responds that there seem to be many unanswered questions and/or possibilities surrounding the idea. He would sell his lots prior to paying an assessment of any type. This has all been reviewed prior and not pursued secondary to those sorts of questions/issues. Peter Craugh adds that it would be difficult to track if a lot had an agreement and then was built upon. Art Tucker responds that those issues would need to be reviewed by the Attorney for legal guidance. Gloria Aspinall adds it may have too many negatives to pursue much further; bookkeeping, liens, abatements, legal fees, suing owners for payment, etc. are detriments to the process.

6. Commissioners Reports

Mike Smith reports that the work is nearing completion on the pump houses. The excavation for the DPW cast in place tank and meter placements will be done next. Rick Skarinka and Sarah Pillsbury from NH DES are expected next week. The search for a bobcat is progressing. Bob Wirling's estimate for straightening out the yard at the equipment garage has been received. The numbers will be checked against the budget next week. Art Tucker adds that the prices are good, but agrees the budget needs to be checked to verify the money is available.

Gloria Aspinall reports that the crack sealing is done on Lugano and Bristenstock. Eideweiss Drive will be next. David Rowe has completed the work at the Lodge, the branches closest to the roof have been cut back and all holes in the foundation have been sealed. Gloria asks the status of the front runner rake and Art Tucker informs her it will not be repaired. Gloria continues her report with the information that the technician from PSNH was here last week and the street lights were reviewed. The street light across from the new equipment garage is marked for removal. The light at the end of Oak Ridge will be replaced with a light for the flag. This will be a focus beam light so as to not blind drivers or disturb any houses. Gloria discusses the scheduling of a public hearing for the street lights. **Gloria Aspinall makes a motion to hold a Public Hearing Friday June 4, 2010 at 7pm at the Lodge on the street lights, to be followed by an open forum discussion on funding of the water system. Art Tucker seconds the motion and the motion passed.** Gloria discusses the need to educate the public on the issues of funding the water system, get public input on how the voters want the system funding, and gather input on options for funding. The goal is to avoid funding discussions at the Annual Meeting; and to avoid a change to a warrant article that makes obtaining the loan questionable. Peter Craugh adds that information should be gathered and reviewed prior to including an Attorney. Mike Smith adds that he hopes for a good discussion on alternative funding methods. A reminder that the Water Advisory Board meets next Monday, May 17 at 5pm is made.

7. Signature Items

A letter to Glen Builders regarding the requested engineering certification for the salt shed is signed. This will be mailed certified, return receipt, today.

8. Correspondence

A status update on progress for the pump stations was received via e-mail.

DES has sent through a link to groundwater ordinance wording.

NH Municipal Association Legislative Bulletin #19 is reviewed.

NH Municipal Association Legislative Bulletin #20 is reviewed.

LGC has distributed additional information on the updates proposed to the risk management pools. VDOE has agreed to be on the list of municipalities against this update.

9. Administration

The April daily water usage figures are reviewed.

Water rate calculation is reviewed. **Art Tucker makes a motion to set the water rate for 2010 at \$415.00, Gloria Aspinall seconds the motion and the motion passed.**

Mike Smith requests an update on the audit. Audit is ongoing, questions expected this week from auditors for completion

Mike Smith discusses the SCADA installation. He would like to have a conference call with Dominic Carelli of ICS, who will be doing the installation. He asks Peter Craugh if he would be available for the call as well. Peter informs Mike that he will be away from June 1 to June 8. Mike states that the spare parts that will be ordered are expected to take 3 weeks to arrive. Mike would like to have the call on May 24 to allow for ordering of the spare parts. Dominic will be contacted for availability on the 24th.

Gloria Aspinall discusses the light at the Muddy Beach Station. The electrician will be contacted for replacement of the fixture with a standard fixture.

At 10:43am Art Tucker makes a motion to adjourn, Gloria Aspinall seconds the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Cole
Administrator