Village District of Eidelweiss
Public Hearing
January 28, 2011

The Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed budgets for 2011 at 7pm on January 28, 2011 at Madison Town Hall. Present were Commissioners Mark Graffam and Gloria Aspinall. Approximately 25 persons were in attendance.

At 7pm Chairman Mark Graffam called the meeting to order. Mr. Graffam introduces himself, Commissioner Gloria Aspinall and Administrator Nancy Cole. Mr. Graffam outlines that this hearing is the second of the two scheduled. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2011 at the Madison Elementary School.

Mr. Graffam outlines the new budget format. The Operations/Highway budget and Water budget have now been combined onto one form. He explains that at Tuesday's Commissioners meeting, the split between the two budgets was altered to 85% Operations/Highway and 15% Water services for General Government expenditures. This created a shift of burden towards taxation. The final column on the new format tallies the two budgets together for total allocation amounts. Two new articles were added and a third article expenditure was increased. The dollar amounts allocated to these articles have been removed from the budgets. One article was added for the 2011 road plan, one article was added for the backhoe repairs, and the Big Loop culvert article was increased to include the necessary safety improvements. The road may need to be closed due to the safety hazard created by the culvert. This will be discussed by the Commissioners next Tuesday. Mr. Graffam discusses the meeting from last week, questioning those present on objections to increasing the fuel allocations. No objections were noted. It was also suggested that propane prices and heating oil prices be checked. These items will be addressed at the next Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Graffam explains that Article 1 of the Warrant is the election of Officers. The positions on the Board are staggered, so that one Commissioner's term expires each year. It is explained that there are two positions this year secondary to the resignation of a commissioner in January. Candidates for the ballot are:

Commissioner 3 year	Mark Graffam
Commissioner 2 year	Ed Foley; CP Smith
Moderator 1 year	E. Peter Craugh
Treasurer 1 year	Dinah Reiss
Clerk 1 year	Debbie Riendeau

Article 2 is a petitioned bond article. By law, this article must appear first behind the elections. This article will have it's own Public Hearing on Tuesday, Feb 8 at the opening of the Commissioner's meeting. It is explained that as a petitioned article, the Board cannot alter it or remove it from the warrant. The hearing is a formality that must be complied with. Mr. Graffam adds that this article can only be altered from the floor of the annual meeting.

Article 3 is the Operations/Highway budget. Alterations were made to the budget following input from the prior meeting.

Article 4 is for depositing monies into Capital Reserve Funds. The current balances for each CRF are available on a handout.

Article 5 is the Water System budget.

Article 6 is authorization to expend up to $50,000 from the Extension Fund.

Article 7 is for establishment of parking permits at the beaches. This article creates significant discussion both for and against. It is noted that permits were used many years ago for the beaches.

Article 8 is for establishing assessments on vacant lots. It is noted that the wording in this article is as suggested by the attorney's review. This technical aspects of identifying 'close proximity' of a water line as well as some 'guarantee' of hooking into the system are discussed.

Article 9 is for establishing the water usage account to classification of a Special Revenue Fund, which would require Legislative Body approval for expenditure.

Article 10 is a name change to the Extension Fund. The Dept of Revenue(DRA) has questioned this article. It may be removed.

Article 11 is for the culvert on Big Loop Rd. Monies have been shifted into this article from the budgets. Significant discussion over establishing safety measures prior to the annual meeting occurs. Weight limit and general road classification are also discussed.

Article 12 is the proposal for a second tower. This article creates discussion from many aspects including value of land, value of cell tower space, limitation of one bidder, etc.

Article 13 is for repair to pump houses. An attempt to obtain bids prior to the annual meeting will be made.

Article 14 is for clearing the sides of the roads. An attempt to obtain bids prior to the annual meeting will be made.

Article 15 is for painting street lights. This is also an estimated number for which an attempt to obtain bids prior to the annual meeting will be made. Discussion relates to this job having been done on a volunteer basis previously at a cost far less than this article.

Article 16 is for painting and repairing the DPW building. Bids are being obtained. The first bid received indicates that the appropriation for this article may be reduced.

Article 17 is for water line engineering on lower Oak Ridge plus. Discussion on this article focuses on wether or not is necessary to engineer this replacement.

Article 18 is for road engineering on lower Oak Ridge plus. Discussion relates to the expense of building an engineered road being prohibitive.

Article 19 is for the salt shed site. The condition of the site, the safety notice received on the salt shed building and subsequent bankruptcy of Cover-All are all discussed. Open discussion on pursuing of law suit or not led to much input from those present. A 'straw pole' is held following the discussion with the following results: pursue lawsuit - 5; don't pursue suit - 9; get more information - 15. Additional information requested includes chances of collecting, break even point, anticipated cost of suit, and to see if the attorney would accept a contingency percentage vs. hourly rate.

Article 20 is for the 2011 road improvement plan. Wendell Dicey outlines the plan. Replacing culverts, ditching roads, graveling and compacting road surfaces included. A more specific plan is requested and additional details will be worked out.

Article 21 is for repairs to the backhoe. Wendell Dicey outlines that the machine is currently worth $25,000 to $30,000 dollars and worth maintaining properly. This repair will fix the armature, which will extend the useful life of the machine and make it safer to operate.

Articles 22 and 23 are petitioned articles which cannot be altered by the Board.

At 9:40pm Mark Graffam makes a motion to adjourn. Gloria Aspinall seconds the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Cole
Administrator