

BLUE SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners Meeting
March 16, 2019
Town Hall

Meeting Minutes



8:06 A.M. Call to Order (Quorum 4) – Roll Call

Board Members present at the meeting were Jim Hochman, Diane Knauer, Greg Bauer and Ed Miller. Staff members Greg Twelmeyer, Jim Olson and Mary Jo McMahan were also in attendance. Steve Marcus joined the meeting in progress.

8:09 A.M. Secretary's Report - Diane Knauer

Minutes – Approval of Minutes from December 01, 2018 Board Meeting. A motion to approve Minutes from the 12/01/2018 Board Meeting was made by Greg Bauer and 2nd by Ed Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda – Approval of Agenda for March 16, 2019 Board Meeting. A motion to approve the 03/16/2019 Board Meeting Agenda was made by Ed Miller and 2nd by Greg Bauer. The motion carried unanimously.

8:10 A.M. Dam Report - Jim Olson
Status of the dam

Jim Olson reported that the dam is operating as it should. He will raise the lake level on April 15th. Jim will also make sure the area around the dam is cleaned up and in good shape before the DNR inspection scheduled for this summer.

8:14 A.M. Sewer Report - Greg Twelmeyer
Report on sewer flow

Greg Twelmeyer reported that flow through the sewer system reached a high of 51,000 gallons on March 14th, which coincides with the snow melt-off. As of March 16th, it was still at 35,000, which is high compared to the average of 19,000 – 23,000 gallons. Greg reported that other communities in the area are noticing a similar increase because of the large amount of snow that is melting. He anticipates that the flow will be back to normal in a few days.

Greg mentioned that a sewer cover near the Herbst property was damaged by dredging equipment last year, and needs to be repaired. Water is entering the sewer system at this point, and the lift is running even though no one has been at the residence during the winter months. Jim Hochman asked Greg to get a quote for the repair. There is a question regarding who should pay for the repair, since the damage occurred because of the dredging, which was not a District operation.

Greg also mentioned the need for a lateral permit for a new residence to be built on Lot 11A by Tim Horter. Mary Jo McMahan will call the Village to get the current fee amount, since there hasn't been a new connection to the sewer system in many years.

Greg reported that there was one frozen sewer line this winter, and it was his. He said this was the first time in the 40 years that he has been in his house that the line has frozen.

Status on VisuSewer proposal – Jim Hochman

Jim stated that we need to move soon if we are going to get the sewer work done this year, but because of the expense involved he would like to get a second bid. Our attorney, Dick Yde, thinks there may be other companies that do this work, and Jim will ask him for the names of these companies. Greg Twelmeyer mentioned that whomever we get to do the sewer work could possibly also fix the cover near the Herbst property.

A discussion followed regarding the Village of Palmyra sewer report. The Village is concerned about and treating phosphorus and ammonia found in the system. Greg Twelmeyer mentioned that the DNR is also watching sodium content and is tracking the amount of road salt getting into sewer systems. Water softener output also adds sodium. Ed Miller mentioned that the brine treatment used by the Town also contains sodium, but is much less concentrated.

8:35 A.M. Town Report – Ed Miller

Roads report

Ed Miller asked if anyone had an opinion about the brine solution that was used on the roads for the first time this winter. Greg Twelmeyer said he generally thinks it worked well, but didn't think one pass down the middle of the road was enough. The solution does not spread to the edges of the road. It is Greg's understanding that other communities take two passes. Greg mentioned that he has talked to the person who applies the brine and he is very personable and helpful. Greg asked Ed how much brine is used, and Ed replied 70 gallons per mile. Ed stated that the consensus seems to be that everyone likes the brine solution better than the sand.

With respect to road repairs, Ed mentioned that winter was terrible on the roads this year. There are pot holes and buckling pavement that will need to be repaired. Ed also stated that a section of road near the Triangle has a culvert that needs repair, but this is Village's responsibility, not the Town's.

A discussion followed regarding the Town of Palmyra airport. There is a request to build additional hangars at the airport, and the Town is working through issues surrounding their plans with the Village.

8:54 A.M. Treasurer's Report - Greg Bauer

Bills for approval – None

Annual figures, recap

Greg Bauer reviewed the annual budget from last year and highlighted the areas where we over-spent and under-spent budgeted amounts. Overall, we ended the year very close to plan.

Greg also reviewed the revenue received from sewer payments and the tax levy last year. Greg stated that he was able to cash in the CD at the bank without penalty. He proposed we move \$10,000 to the LGIP account we have established for Lake Operations and Maintenance and \$40,000 to the LGIP Sewer account. The Board agreed, and Mary Jo will make the transfer. Jim Hochman asked Mary Jo to make copies of the bank and LGIP statements available to Dick Natrop in the event that he needs them for the April 9th meeting with the DNR.

A discussion regarding the LGIP sewer fund followed. If the District does not need these funds to replace the sewer system (e.g. if that will be a Village expense), the Board decided that the money should be used to help pay sewer fees so that we don't have to raise the quarterly charge to residents.

9:14 A.M. Operations Report – Ed Miller for Dick Natrop

Remaining ash trees update

Ed Miller stated that Mike Vant has removed the remaining diseased trees and will cut up the wood and make it available at the compost site. Ed mentioned that the Town has a grant for removing and replanting trees, and that the Town could perhaps replant trees in the Triangle for us. Ed will get a list of the types of trees the Town will allow to be planted under the grant. Diane Knauer will put a notice on the website that firewood is available at the compost site.

Plaques update

Jim Hochman stated that Dick Natrop is looking for a different company to make the commemorative plaques we intend to hang with the new trees in the Triangle. The company Dick has been using has not been responsive.

Grant request for a new weed harvester

Jim Hochman mentioned that there is a meeting on April 9th in Wausau where Dick Natrop will present our grant application for a new weed harvester. We are waiting for the DNR to approve our Aquatic Plant Management Plan, which needs to be included in the grant request.

9:20 A.M. Website -Diane Knauer

Current number of residents registered

Diane Knauer reported that we currently have 179 registered members in 112 accounts.

New postings

Diane reported that she has posted many new articles on the website: Town Board Meeting notices, District Board Agendas and Minutes, Ski Show Dates, Aquatic Plant Management Plan, etc.

Recommended improvements

Diane asked if anyone had further recommendations for improving the website. Everyone commented how well Diane has been maintaining the site, and how well it has been received by District residents. There were no recommendations for improvement.

9:28 A.M. New Business

A question was asked about the use of the property at W1476 N. Blue Spring Lake Drive (the old School House). It looks like the property is being used to store equipment and vehicles, possibly in violation of county ordinances. Diane Knauer will reach out to our county representative to check on restrictions regarding unlicensed vehicles.

Steve Marcus presented ideas for the Blue Spring Lake 70th Anniversary logo and apparel. The Board reviewed Steve's suggestions and chose a design. Steve will prepare a merchandise order to be included with the 1st Quarter billing.

10:08 A.M. Old Business

Agreement to be signed by the ski club which holds the District harmless from any issue that might arise by allowing the ski club to store their boats and equipment on District property at the compost site – Jim Hochman

Jim Hochman and Steve Marcus signed the agreement on behalf of the District and the Ski Team respectively. Jim also initialed and accepted, on behalf of the District, a certificate of insurance from USA Water Ski & Wake Sports, Inc.

Sewer bills by e-mail rather than US mail – Mary Jo McMahan

Mary Jo McMahan reported that there was little interest from residents to receive their sewer bills via e-mail. It was decided that this topic would be re-visited next year.

Follow-up on letter to owners for late fee and administrative handling fee for late sewer payments – Jim Hochman

Mary Jo McMahan reported that, despite the letter sent to those who habitually do not pay their sewer bills, all but one of those residents neglected to pay the 4th quarter bill. The Board decided to implement a quarterly late fee. If a balance remains at year end, all outstanding amounts (late fees included) will be sent to the residents' tax bills for collection. Jim Hochman will ask Dick Yde for an opinion on whether there is a maximum or state-mandated amount for late payment penalties and/or administrative charges. Late fees will begin once we have Dick's input.

Follow up with residents who received the smoke test letter to see if they have completed necessary repairs – Greg Wolak

Greg Wolak was not in attendance. Diane Knauer will send an email to Greg asking for a report at the next Board meeting.

Six-month extension of the sewer contract with the Village – Jim Hochman

The contract was extended through April 1. Negotiations regarding a new contract on on-going.

10:31 A.M. Future Board Dates
Next Board Meeting – May 4th
Informational Meeting – May 25th

10:35 A.M. Public Comments
Jim Olson asked if a permit was needed replace concrete in his driveway. Ed Miller answered that a permit is not required.

10:36 A.M. Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85 (1) (e), the Board opted to enter closed session to deliberate the on-going sewer contract negotiations.
A motion to end the Open Session of the Board Meeting and enter into Closed Session was made by Ed Miller, 2nd by Greg Bauer. The motion carried unanimously. Closed Session was convened, and Jim Olson was invited to attend.

11:07 A.M. A motion to end the Closed Session and return to the Open Session was made by Diane Knauer, 2nd by Ed Miller. The motion carried unanimously.

11:08 A.M. A motion to adjourn the Board Meeting was make by Ed Miller, 2nd Diane Knauer. The motion carried unanimously.