**VILLAGE DISTRICT OF EIDELWEISS**

**Public Hearing Meeting**

**Saturday October 15, 2022**

There were about 16 people who attended the public hearing, 15 of them signed in. Commissioner Ralph Lutjen, Commissioner Michael Smith, Commissioner Jay Buckley, Alexis Wagoner-Administrator & Kelly Robitaille-Highway Forman were present.

The meeting was called to order by chairman Ralph Lutjen at 9:00am.

Ralph Lutjen had all attendees say the Pledge of Allegiance

**Mike Smith makes a motion to open the public hearing on the highway & Parking Ordinance, Ralph Lutjen 2nds, passed 2-0**

Ralph Lutjen sets ground rules to 2 minutes per person to talk.

Amy Thompson objects to the 2-minute time limit and says that they should be able to talk as long as they want to.

Mike Smith objects and states there must be a time limit.

Ralph Lutjen agrees to a 2-minutes time limit.

Ralph Lutjen reads the current Highway & Parking Ordinance excerpt “3.E. Vehicles, personal trailers, recreational vehicles, snowmobiles, and boats may not be left in any of the Village District parking lots for more than 5 days, 30 days in Huttwil, unless written authorization is received from the board of commissioners. Parking in excess of this time period without authorization will result in a fine and the vehicle will be towed.”

Ralph Lutjen reads the proposed Highway & Parking Ordinance change “3.E. Vehicles, trailers and recreational vehicles may not be left in any of the Village District parking lots for more than seven days. The Huttwil Parking lot can be used for temporary parking for a seven-day time period. Parking in excess of seven days requires a permit issued by the VDOE office. In no event parking will be permitted for a term of greater than 30 days per year. Long-term parking will be permitted at the Bern Road parking area. The Bern Road parking area will have lighting. A parking permit is required for any vehicle or trailer to be parked in this lot. A fee of $200 a month (adjusted for shorter time periods on a pro-rata basis) is the required fee for parking. In order to obtain a permit, the following information is required: Tax bill showing Eidelweiss home ownership & Vehicle registration. Parking in excess of the time periods stated above or without a permit will result in a fine and/or the vehicle being towed. The Village District of Eidelweiss assumes no liability please park at your own risk.”

Kathy Koziell requests to take Kevin Flynn’s 2 minutes of speaking, Ralph Lutjen oks.

Kathy Koziell reads a statement in opposition to the changes.

Amy Thompson reads a statement in opposition to the changes.

Larry Leonard discusses RSA 41 and the continues with the statement that Amy Thompson was reading from.

Mindy Prescott questions what issues the Commissioners are trying to resolve and will there be insurance issues requiring payment for parking.

Jay Buckley points out that no email complaints have come to the office regarding parking.

Ralph Lutjen answers Mindy’s question, the intent is to permit long-term parking, which is not currently permitted. The DPW has trouble plowing in the winter with the cars at Huttwil lot. People have been ignoring the current ordinance and parking for more than 30 days.

Brian Cronin states that the current ordinance only says “more than 30 days” not NO more than 30 days. Also suggests adding a section in regarding the winter season.

Diane Rozek states that there have been no issues with the lot or with overcrowding. We should not have to pay more then we already are in taxes to park long term. No complaints have been made and when I go to the parking lot in the winter it is barley plowed.

Dorothy Wondolowski comments that the current ordinance requests permission to be asked to park for over 30 days. We should enforce that and then bring the matter up at the annual meeting.

Jay Buckley states that signage is on its way to inform people of the parking ordinance.

Dorothy Wondolowski replies that it should be put on the website and possibly have stickers where it can be seen on that car that it was approved for over 30 days.

Alexis Wagoner responds that on the main page of the website is the application to park for more than 30 days at the Huttwil lot.

Larry Sodano states that people who park for over 30 days are not being towed. There seem to be no consequences for breaking the ordinance. You should have cars towed once that 30 days is up.

Nick Borelli comments to piggyback off what Larry said the VDOE taxpayers are losing amenities the only issue seems to be snow mobile trailers parked in the winter and plowing.

Doug Prescott asks 1. What is the cost of building the Bern lot? 2. No fee when parking at your own risk if charging there should be protection. 3. Who is policing the limits when the current ordinance is not policed. 4. Not everyone has a tax bill.

Kelly Robitaille answers question 1. It would take the DPW 2 days, and the lighting would be a monthly bill.

Ralph Lutjen responds to Doug Prescott’s questions 2. That we will have them sign a waiver or liability. 3. There will be an additional effort made to police the cars and 4. We will change the wording to evidence of a tax bill or lease agreement.

Brian Cronin states that the current ordinance is policed by the Madison P.D

Ralph Lutjen states that yes it is to be reported to the Madison P.D

Jay Buckley mentions that it is $245 for parking in the City of Boston, a rate of $200 would encourage people to park on the streets for free when there is no parking ban. He adds that he is against these changes and there is no issue.

Dorothy Wondolowski states that we should wait till the annual meeting to decide.

Wooda McNiven comments the cost for a parking lot at Bern would include manpower, backhoe time, gravel, street light instillation. How much is that?

Larry Sodano asks how the Commissioners came up with a $200 fee, Ralph Lutjen states that it sounded reasonable.

Kevin Flynn asks why we would spend money on new parking when there is nothing wrong with the current parking.

Larry Leonard states there are no issues with parking. Some people are unable to park their trailer on their property. Also, for those who have commercial vehicles it saves them a trip to the office to swap cars.

Kathy Koziell states that the biggest concern is no long-term parking which you want to make allowable in a dark remote gravel lot.

Larry Leonard comments back on RSA 41-A that it needs a majority vote at an annual meeting to charge a fee.

Brian Cronin adds that $200 a month is $2,400 a year which is 25% of his tax bill.

Diane Rozek asks what the $200 fee would be used for?

Mike Smith states it would go to the unassigned fund balance where the voters would vote on what to do with it.

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to end the public hearing, no 2nd**

Ralph Lutjen explains what will happen after the public hearing.

Kerry McNiven asks if the Commissioners have the authority to make changes now or do they have to wait until the annual meeting?

Ralph Lutjen responds that the Commissioners have the authority to change it now.

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to adjourn the public hearing, Jay Buckley 2nds, passes 3-0**

Respectfully submitted,
 Alexis Wagoner