**VILLAGE DISTRICT OF EIDELWEISS**

**Commissioners Meeting**

**Monday October 24, 2022**

The Board of Commissioners met at 10:00am on Monday October 24, 2022.

In attendance for the public meeting are Commissioner Mike Smith, Commissioner Ralph Lutjen, Commissioner Jay Buckley, Donna MacKinnon-Administrator, Alexis Wagoner-Administrator, Phil Corbett (video) & Josh Bouchard (video).

Meeting videotaped by Carol of Madison TV

**At 9:58am Commissioner Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to open the meeting, Jay Buckley 2nds, passes 3-0**

**Public Meeting**

Video Phone Conference with CMA Engineers to review upcoming projects and 2023 warrant articles.

Overview of Asset Management Plan priority list.

Discussion on Water Committee Warrant Articles for 2023.

Discussion on increasing the water bill next year by $100 to get some money into the capital reserves.

Ralph Lutjen: discusses concern about no talk of storage tanks in the AMP. The significant issues at this moment are the warrant articles for next year and the number of projects that need to be done to the water system. There is a lack of funds for these projects. We have submitted a grant application that will help to fund the warrant article. Not much on roads that needs to be done. Eidelweiss Drive is a big project, but we do not have the funds since it is a $200,000 project. The Grison Culvert is another project we need to handle. We have gotten a 5-year extension, but we would like you to review the design on the project.

Jay Buckley: discussion on AMP plan, there were a lot of discrepancies in the plan as a result of poor historical data transferred to Horizons from the VDOE. The Water Committee has been reviewing the plan and found the major project to do first is the East, West and connecting section of Interlocken. This was put into multiple warrant articles. We have requested funding from a grant, a loan, the CRF and increasing the water bill by $100. If we do this project we will not have many funds left going forward unless we take out a loan. If we do this project now it will be more affordable because of the size of the project.

To Ralphs point on tank lining, we have 4 tanks, Reinach was installed about 2 years ago, but the other tanks may need to be lined soon.

Phil Corbett comments that we have reviewed the plan but are not extremely familiar with it. Need to narrow it down. What need to do is develop a mix of improvements rather than just critical improvement. Need to present it as we are doing this mix of improvements to get the most for our money. The water bill has been very low, that’s something that needs to be addressed. We need to try to justify an approach that addresses the immediate items but also look at the long-term approach. Is this warrant article the best approach, or should we review other options that may be more beneficial.

Mike smith comments that he thinks we should raise the water bill to $700-$750 to give us the money to put into the CRFS. The priority is Interlaken as we have had the most leaks in the past in that area. If we go with the warrant articles does this give you enough time to get things ready with drawings and what not to present it at the annual meeting. Roads also need to be included when we are doing the water mains. It needs to be a one package deal.

Jay Buckley to answer Mike Smith’s questions what will the scheduling be to get a design to get to the voters.

Mike Smith states they started the pipe work back in the 80’s but they never finished it. Need to do test pits to determine where the main is right now.

Jay Buckley adds that they appropriated $5,000 to do test probs to see if there is ledge. Going to replace and add water main in that area and tie the homeowners into the new line.

Phil Corbett answers that they can develop a cost estimate, we just need to verify a number or develop a construction plan.

Jay Buckley adds in the past we have gotten engineering estimates with linear feet and brought that to the annual meeting. What is the most cost effective to have a drawing done and have the contractor meet that drawing exactly or have the contractor do the work and then have an as built done.

Phil Corbett responds that it seems we would have flexibility on how this is approached. We could give them flexibility and document in the field and then have the as built done.

Mike Smith states that we know where the mains are currently within the ballpark range.

Phil Corbett replies we are always better off sticking with the same quarters that the current water main is.

Jay Buckley states that with the Reinach tank project we laid the main on the side of the road and when we approached a home hook up we laid the pipe underneath the connection.

Phil Corbett adds we need to consider the cost fluctuation that is happening right now. We can develop a conceptual cost and engineering plan with the Warrant Articles you have in place. How do you want to move forward after this with future projects.

Ralph Lutjen states we need to break the mold we will never get anywhere doing what we have been doing. We have 60-year-old assets. I think we need a plan that says we are going to borrow and assess the priority list. Will need to alert people the water rate is going to be going up. AMP suggests we have about $4 million in project maintenance. Could look at borrowing $1 million in capital appropriations and determine which projects would be highest priority to cover with this amount.

Phil Corbett questions would this cover roads and culverts too or just water?

Ralph Lutjen replies well if the roads are impacted with a water project then yes the roads will need to be repaired.

Mike Smith adds that both roads and water go hand in hand if the roads are ripped up during a water main replacement then we need to address the roads. If we do half the road with a water project the other half could be billed to the operating. Split the construction between the two accounts.

Phil Corbett states this is common to split the cost among accounts.

Discussion on going forward and next week’s meeting.

Mike Smith left the meeting at 10:45am

Discussion on grants, Jay Buckley asks if it would this be better for CMA to write the grants moving forward if this is something you do?

Phil Corbett replies yes this is something Josh Bouchard has done in the past and we could do the grant writing going forward. Have you looked into the USDA grants?

Jay Buckley: yes we have in the past but there were some issues, Ralph Lutjen states that there were too many 2nd homeowners and income based.

Phil Corbett explains that the USDA strongly encourages determining leaks and also installing meters on the home because when people are billed on the actual water usage they are less likely to use as much water. The USDA has funded this in the past for communities. Something to look into, grants with the USDA.

Jay Buckley states the length and location of the pipes is not known. Do you have experience with ground penetrating radar?

Phil Corbett responds yes we do but it does not work well with plastic pipe.

Meeting next Tuesday November 1st at Madison Town Hall.

Josh Bouchard and Phil Corbett leave the meeting at 10:53am

Discussion on the John Deere Backhoe

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to approve the transfer of $23,000 out of the highway Equipment CRF to the Operating Budget for the John Deere Lease purchase agreement, Jay Buckley 2nds, passes 2-0**

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to sign the application of payment from the Trustee’s for $23,000 from the Highway Equipment CRF, Jay Buckley 2nds, passes 2-0**

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to sign the auditor’s letter to the attorneys, Jay Buckley 2nds, passes 2-0**

Discussion on the Warrant articles regarding the John Deere backhoe and Volvo backhoe.

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to adjourn at 11:14am, Jay Buckley 2nds, passes 2-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Wagoner, Administrator.