**VILLAGE DISTRICT OF EIDELWEISS**

**Commissioners Meeting**

**Thursday June 8, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners met at 1:00pm on Thursday June 8, 2023.

In attendance for the public meeting are Commissioner Ralph Lutjen, Commissioner Mark Graffam, Commissioner Mike Smith, Alexis Wagoner-Administrator, Jay Buckley, Ian Hayes, Paula Doyle & Doug Prescott.

Meeting videotaped by Kasia of Madison TV

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to open the meeting at 1:00pm, Mike Smith 2nds, passes 3-0**

**Public Meeting**

Discussion on Simply Water’s resignation.

Ian Hayes discusses reasons why he has lost interest in being the operator for the District. It is not the job itself, he explains, but the people and accusations from the public. There have been a lot of not factual things put out by the people in the District.

He discusses how doing larger projects is always difficult to get done. The Commissioners try to get the necessary projects done but then they get voted down at the annual meeting. He also discusses how the water system in the District is a difficult one, the state has classified it as a grade 2 due to the complexity of it not because it is a grade 2. The District is not putting enough money aside to complete necessary projects. Projects have gotten done but there are a lot more things that need to be fixed or replaced that the District is just not doing. A commitment needs to be made to start tackling projects the system and putting money into things that are a top priority.

Ralph Lutjen states that he agrees with some of the points Ian has made. We need to start realistically looking at all the projects that need to be completed and come up with a plan financial to start tackling them. Ralph Lutjen adds that his hope is that the District can move forward with Ian Hayes as the operator, Ian is an asset to the District and has a lot to offer for the future of the water system.

Ian Hayes discusses that there would be a lot of things that need to change for Simply Water to continue as the operator. There is a lot to consider from my end.

Ralph Lutjen questions if he would reconsider staying on?

Ian Hayes replies yes, that is why I am here because I have reconsidered but there are needs that need to be met. There are budget changes that need to happen and contract prices need to be evaluated.

Ralph Lutjen responds that one thing to change would be to really listen to Ian’s concerns and anxieties on a regular basis. You are a contributor to the current system and future system. We need to establish a priority list and path to move forward. The District of greatly benefited by you.

Mike Smith comments that if the District loses Simply Water it is going to be a loss not only financially but also knowledge wise. Mike Smith hopes that Ian Hayes considers staying on and that we can do whatever is needed. At the end we need to put aside personalities and do what is best for the Village District.

Ian Hayes replies thank you for that Mike. I don’t want to enable the way things have been done. We won’t be able to continue at the cost we are at now. The current monthly charge doesn’t even cover all the administrative work we do. There is a laundry list of things I need to change. I can send that list over to the office and the contract adjustments.

Mike Smith questions if we can extend the contract until July 1st and deal with the laundry list in the meantime to see if we can resolve these issues.

Ian Hayes states he isn’t willing to extend it to July 1st unless a new contract is signed. One thing that would need to change is the District would need to contract their own contractor for digs. Simply Water would just be the operator. I need to look out for my workers and do things by the book going forward which will cost more money. The District is currently behind right now on work that needs to be done. I can get you the contract and what our expectations are and stay on until next Wednesday.

Ian Hayes discusses how it will be hard for the District to keep any operator or contractor if this toxic environment continues. There is an internal issue inside the District that needs to be resolved.

Ian Hayes reiterates that he will get a list over to the office by the end of the day. The water system is in dire need of repairs, and they need to happen. If things don’t change and there is no commitment to the water system, then I won’t be able to stay on. If you agree with the changes and things on the list, then we can sit down and have a long conversation about it as well as sign a new contract.

Ian Hayes leaves the meeting.

Ralph Lutjen discusses setting up a meeting to discuss the list Ian provides and look at the other operators prior to the meeting on Tuesday when a decision needs to be made.

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to have a meeting next Monday at 11am, Mike Smith 2nds, passes 3-0**

**Mike Smith makes a motion to contact DES and inform them that we will be continuing with Simply Water until next Wednesday so that we will not be in violation, Ralph Lutjen 2nds, passes 3-0**

Discussion on Dawson completing the PRV Project.

**Mike Smith makes a motion to continue with Dawson completing the PRV Pit and pay the $4,000 remobilization fee, Mark Graffam 2nds, passes 3-0**

Going to cancel the meeting with Dubois & King next week.

**Mark Graffam makes a motion to put in the email to Dawson that we agree to the $4000 remobilization fee and that the contract is based on the design provided by Dubois & King, Ralph Lutjen 2nds, passes 3-0**

Discussion on the timing of the work.

Doug Prescott questions if there is a detailed scope of services for the monthly fees from the proposed new operators. What does their monthly fee include?

Ralph Lutjen replies not at this time, but it will be discussed with them.

**Ralph Lutjen makes a motion to adjourn at 2:03pm, Mike Smith 2nds, passes 3-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Wagoner, Administrator.