**Tug Lake District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

**September 2, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.**

Present: John Greenwood, Don Olson, Bill Wulf, Mike Specht

Absent: Bill Bialecki, Todd Nicklaus

Minutes prepared by Kathy Raczkowski

John Greenwood called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

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1. **Approve Agenda and Minutes of Last Meeting**
* Motion to approve Agenda and August 21, 2021, minutes made by Mike Specht
* Don Olson seconded the motion
* Motion passed
1. **Taxation**

Don Olson talked with the Lincoln County Tax Specialist and the Rock Falls County Clerk regarding the taxation pre-payment option that was brought up at the Continued Annual meeting on August 21, 2021. The taxation pre-payment option is possible but after a lengthy discussion, it was decided not to have a pre-payment option this year.

Reasons to not have the taxation pre-payment option:

* Every resident needs to be contacted to find out if they want to pre-pay.
* We must collect the money before November 1, 2021, from the people who want to pre-pay.
* Residents would need to understand there will be no partial payments and no refunds.
* The pre-pay option is not fair for everyone because you may overpay or underpay based upon capital costs that have not yet been determined by the Aeration and Research Committee which is just being formed.
* A question was asked if we are taxing this year, are we able to get a loan next year? This would be critical to know before we would get the tax bill out. Special charges should go into effect on this next tax bill.

Mike Specht mentioned we have an approved budget and approved project but are still unsure about the actual cost of the aeration system. To summarize the discussion, we don’t want to constitute a taxation pre-pay option because we don’t have the actual costs for the aeration system, and we want to make the cost fair for all residents. A suggestion is to move forward with the plan to get money as soon as possible and work on getting the aeration system in place with guidance from Eric Olson, UW-Extension Lakes Director, and amend the budget at a special meeting. The Tug Lake website will be used as official notification and Don Olson will write a statement explaining this information to the residents (see Board of Commissioners Comment included below).

1. **Annual District Meeting Structure**

The Tug Lake District Board of Commissioners will have quarterly meetings in November, February, May, and August. The Annual meeting and Special meetings will also be held.

1. **Committee Structure**

John Greenwood asked if Co-Chairs should be selected for each Committee or just have a Chair per Committee. This person would reach out to the residents listed on the Committees to schedule meetings. Mike Specht suggested assigning one Commissioner to each Committee and have that Commissioner attend the committee meetings to moderate following Robert’s Rules of Order. [www.robertsrule.com](http://www.robertsrule.com).

Moderators for each Committee are:

* Don Olson for Aeration and Research Committee
* John Greenwood for By-Laws Committee
* Bill Wulf for Fish Habitat Committee
* John Greenwood for the Grants Committee. Dan Lewison will Chair this Committee and “DNR” was removed from the wording “Review and apply for Grants”.

The invasive species conversation was tabled at the August 21, 2021, Continue Annual Meeting but the suggestion was to have Jeanne Nienow, Shirley Gajewski, Barb Hartley and Jean Greenwood be added to the next Board of Commissioners Meeting and include invasive species on the agenda.

It was discussed to have the Committees provide a quarterly progress report to understand what has been worked on and what progress the Committees are making. Committee Progress Report should be an agenda item. Limit the Committee’s time when they are presenting an update. If the Committees want to take action on something, it will need to be requested for action and added on the Board of Commissioner Meeting Agenda prior to the Commissioner Meeting date so that action can be taken appropriately at the next Commissioner quarterly meeting.

If the Committee meetings are informal and not spending any money, these meetings don’t have to be posted within 48 hours. However, if three or more Commissioners are attending a Committee Meeting, then the meeting needs to be posted to all residents 48 hours before the meeting is held. All meeting notices and agendas will be posted on the tuglake.com website and at the public sign located at the corner of County Road JJ and Tug Lake Avenue.

Board of Commissioner Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Greenwood

715-218-0284

**Tug Lake District Board of Commissioners Comment**

September 2, 2021

The suggested prepayment of an Aeration System special charge on the resident tax bill was discussed at the recent Board of Commissioners meeting on September 2, 2021. This idea was brought up at the District’s Annual Meeting conducted on August 21,2021. The discussion around this idea was based on fairness to all lake residents and timing for tax requests.

1. Fairness - The cost of an Aeration System in the Annual Budget is based on two separate quotes. These are not official government bids. The length of the loan and interest are assumptions. If some residents prepaid based on these values and the actual amount is lower, the pre-payer has overpaid. If the actual amount is higher, the taxed residents carry more of the costs. Once the tax bills are completed, they are set until next year. No refunds are allowed on monies used to secure a loan. No partial prepayments are allowed because the tax request is set.
2. Timing - The residents voted to approve an Aeration Committee to do research, prepare bid packages, acquire bids, and seek financing. It is all part of a required formal government bidding process for projects over $25,000. The likelihood of the bidding process to obtain accurate costs and financing numbers before the township and county tax request submission dates occur, this fall, are highly unlikely.

**Based on these two factors,** **the Board of Commissioners has decided not to support prepayment of special charges this year.**