**MOECKEL POND VILLAGE DISTRICT**

BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2021

via Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Dan Masse

Kim Masse

Dianna Fallon

Neil Fallon

Steff Young

Norm Young

Bruce Moeckel

Sandy Thomas

Kevin Brown

Michele Stith

Long overdue THANK YOU! We have a dam and a pond now!

Motion to open the budget hearing for general discussion. Motion seconded.

MPVD will soon take over ownership of the dam from Friends. We have already voted on this. The VD lawyer is working on it. We will be taking the annual dam registration fee which is 400/year.

We currently have liability insurance thru Primex - a NH municipal liability pool. We signed up last year.

So minimum annual operating expense for MPVD is the $400 dam reg. fee + $1300 insurance = $1,700. This past year, we also spent money on lawyers, and we assume that will be the case this year as well.

From Bruce Moeckel, Treasurer:

For funds, we currently have:

Capital Reserve Funds = $7,753 (meant for future dam reconstruction)

Operating Budget Funds = $4,487

Thoughts for a later time: Do we need to update the Cap Reserve (850/yr) amount?

Discussion about whether we need to repair and add fencing along bridge/Bayleaf Rd. Thought to be about $3,000 job.

Which fund would this fencing money come from? Answer - Operating Budget because Cap Reserve is specifically for dam repairs / reconstruction.

Question about what is our liability around the dam / pond?

Answer: MPVD property is only the concrete down to the washed out bridge. The town (Conservation) **is** responsible in case someone falls in the parking lot, etc. We are capped on liability too, as long as we are doing whatever we can to the best of our ability.

Question: Should we be using a Consumer Price Index, or something similar, to base our tax rate on over the years? This would keep up with inflation and show responsibility to future property owners. Attendees agree this is a good idea.

Question: Should we update the Warrant Article to say Capital Reserve Fund is for “repairs and/or restoration instead of just “restoration?” Answer: Overall consensus is yes. Dan will discuss with our attorney and add this to the Warrant.

So in discussing the actual budget numbers, we agree on upping Cap Reserve amount to $1,000 from $850 because the last time we set that number was 10 years ago and this keeps up with CPI. Going forward, we can keep up with CPI. This comes out to about an $8 total increase per year.

What about Operating Budget? We need a minimum of $1,700 ($400 dam + $1,300 insurance). So how much else? Lawyer fees? Grounds maintenance?

Question on the deed and Bayleaf Road: Dan currently talking to our lawyer about this because we will be responsible for maintaining but not ownership. Liability goes with ownership, we think Pelham owns the road. There is more TBD on this.

Overall, we agree to present the budget numbers as increasing mostly with the consumer price index from where we started 10 years ago, as the amounts have mostly been stagnant for 8-10 years. The idea that going forward, we will increase the amounts annually according to CPI will be voted on at the Village District Annual meeting.

Proposal to set the operating budget at $2,000 for this year and the capital reserve to $1,000 for this year. General approval of the attendees at the budget hearing.

Motion to put this to a vote of the Commissioners. Motion seconded. Commissioners voted:

Steff Young: yes

Dan Masse: yes

Tom O’Brien: Not present

Proposed budget passes and will be put on the Warrant for a general District vote.

Conclusion of the 2021 Budget Hearing.