

Pillsbury Lake Village District
Budget Hearing
February 10, 2025

Meeting Called to order at 5:34

Roll Call: Chairman Andrew Pomeroy, Commissioner Michael Malecha, Commissioner Susan Lawrence, Treasurer Jamie Dow, Melissa Pomeroy, Theodore Pomeroy, Jennifer Buck, John Maraganis, Rachel Gagnon, On Zoom, Clerk Alison Scott, Mary Lou Maraganis, Heidi Babb, Amanda Benevides, Claudette Levesque, Dianne Laufer

Action Items

- Renegotiate the Aquamen contract to potentially reduce the number of visits and associated costs.
- Amend Article 3 to subtract \$10,000 from the water system operating budget.
- Establish a legal expendable trust fund for the water system for \$10,000
- Communicate with the community about upcoming state-level hearings related to the water system.
- Amend Article 14 to change the name from "Farmer Jeff Memorial Park" to "Farmer Jeff's Landing".

Annual Meeting and Voting Procedures

Commissioner Andrew explains the importance of the annual meeting for voting on community decisions, noting that the next meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 6 PM at the town hall. Treasurer Jamie confirms the date and time of the annual meeting, emphasizing that it will be held at the town hall, not the current location. The monthly meeting for March 12 at 5:30 PM, with no Zoom participation.

Chairman Andrew outlines the plan to read the articles verbatim and then discuss them, limiting back-and-forth unless necessary

Chairman Andrew reads Article One, which outlines the voting process for district offices, including monitor, clerk, commissioner, moderator, and treasurer.

Commissioner Michael suggests not handing out ballots at the door but having candidates speak first and then distributing ballots.

Clerk Jamie proposes that Alison hold onto the ballots and not give them to the supervisors of the checklist.

Commissioner Michael suggests a one-week deadline for candidates to indicate their intention to run, with the option for write-in candidates on the night of the meeting.

Budget and Expenditures for 2025

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Two, which covers the general fund proposed for 2025.

Andrew provides a quick synopsis of the general expenses.

Andrew discusses the maintenance required for the dam and the manual labor involved, suggesting the need for a specific project budget. Chairman Andrew compares the 2024 and 2025 budgets. Treasurer Jamie suggests leaving the budget as is and revisiting it at the March meeting to see if adjustments are needed.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Three to raise and appropriate \$57,959. For operating the water department. Andrew explains that this budget is significantly lower than the 2024 budget. This budget was reduced by the surplus received in 2024. Chairman Andrew explains the surplus from 2024 and how it will be used to cover anticipated expenses in 2025.

John Maraganis raises concerns about the insurance costs being allocated to the water system, suggesting they should be covered by the village district. Chairman Andrew responds that the fees have been divided out per building so that they can be applied to clubhouse and water system operations. Mary Lou inquired as to where the funds raised last year (for legal fees). It was explained that those funds lapsed and will be addressed in Article four. Mary Lou asks if we were able to renegotiate Aquamen's contract to come out biweekly. Andrew stated that due to the chlorine tank at Peninsula they are required to come out weekly. Andrew will reach out to get an updated contract. Amanda asks how many people are on the water system. Jamie states that there are currently 39, 5 are seasonal, leaving 34 current water customers.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Four, which proposes establishing a Water System Capital Reserve Fund for improvements, maintenance, and repairs to the water system. Jamie explains \$82,577 has been collected above what has been spent. She explains the process of calculating the fund amount, subtracting outstanding receivables from the total collected in 2024. Which includes the \$5,000 raised for legal fees that has lapsed.

Treasurer Jamie explains creating a Water System Legal Expendable Trust fund to cover ongoing legal expenses without including them in the annual budget. This is proposed Article Five.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Six: Dam Repair Bond and Water Filtration Loan Payment. Andrew reads Article Five, which proposes raising and appropriating \$21,769 for the dam repair bond for 2025, with \$10,000 anticipated from the town of Webster. If this does not pass the entire amount will come from taxation. This is paid off in 2028.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Seven to see if the district will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,978.00 which covers the water filtration SRF loan payment for 2025, with funds to be paid by water customers only. If Senate Bill 116 passes, water customer accounts will be credited for any loan payments that they have made.

Jennifer Buck expressed her concern about notification for the Senate hearing. Stating that more presence would increase our chances.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Eight which proposes adding \$1 to the Dam Capital Reserve Fund, with the fund previously established but not used. Andrew explains the need for the article and revising it next year.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Nine, which covers the Clubhouse Capital Reserve Fund, with funds to be added from rental fees and contributions above 2024 expenses. Treasurer Jamie suggests amending the article based on the actual rental income by the March meeting.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Ten to see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum \$5,000 for lake dewatering, this is non-lapsing until 12/31/2026.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Eleven: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$2,000 for the Land Capital Reserve Fund.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Twelve which covers the discontinuation of the water line capital reserve fund and the return of funds to the general fund. Treasurer Jamie clarifies that the funds will be returned to the general fund as they were funded by taxpayer dollars.

Chairman Andrew introduces Article Thirteen: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate \$4,500 to establish Farmer Jeff Memorial Park and Boat Launch, with \$1,500 to come from donations.

Michael suggests changing the name of the park to Farmer Jeff's Landing.

Treasurer thanks Susan Lawrence for her \$1,500 donation and mentions the possibility of amending the article for additional donations.

Andrew concludes the meeting, emphasizing the importance of community participation at the annual meeting and addressing any outstanding issues.

Meeting adjourned 6:35 pm