

Pillsbury Lake Village District Monthly Meeting September Sept 16, 2024

Meeting called to order at 5:36pm

Roll-call:

Chairman Andrew Pomeroy, Commissioner Michael Malecha, Commissioner Susan Lawrence, Treasurer Jamie Dow and Clerk Alison Scott

Christie Holland, Georgette Bachelder, Heidi Babb, John Maraganis, Sandy Estep, Amanda Esposito, Rachel Gagnon, Dora Collins, David Collins, Dianne Lauffer, Amber DiPetro, Barbara Howe, John Esposito, Mary Lou, Donna Kenny, Jeff Perry, David Cate.

Chairman Andrew made a motion to approve the monthly meeting minutes for August, motion was second and passed.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer went through detailing pending bills and paid bills, including Eversource accounts, zoom reimbursement, monthly operator service, Stipends, and the additions to the capital reserve funds that were voted on at the 2024 meeting. She stated that there is one customer account that is over 60 days late.

Commissioners discuss the establishment of payment plans with dozens of customers, emphasizing the need to avoid late fees. They highlight the total billed amount of \$112,000, with \$50,000 received and \$62,000 outstanding. They agree that there is a need for a non-public session to discuss a specific customer's payment plan due to the long payment period and other commissioners discuss the challenges of collecting payments and the need for a balanced approach. The Commissioners stress the necessity for customers to reach out to establish a payment plan to avoid late fees and collections. The BOC are doing their best to be reasonable and work with individuals. The Boards responsibility is to collect the budget voted on.

Grant Opportunities and Security Concerns

Chairman Andrew discusses a meeting with Melissa Lang from NHDES Grant representative about potential grant opportunities for security and system subsidization. He suggests using a \$50,000 grant to purchase a lot adjacent to Well 8 as a security investment. He emphasizes the importance of securing the lot to protect the system. The 180 feet radius from Well 8 now overlaps ever so slightly into the adjacent lot and this purchase would secure the well and prevent unauthorized access. At this point it has been grandfathered in as not being a violation because DES should have caught it before the well was dug but didn't. DES has encouraged the BOC to pursue the purchase of this adjacent lot. Chairman Andrew mentions the need to move forward with the grant application by the end of October and add this item to the March 2025 agenda.

Chairman Pomeroy discusses the NHDES Revolving Fund for leak protection and the Small Water Source Protection Grant. He highlights the need to apply for these grants to avoid spending Aquamen money on leak detection. These applications are due in October as well.

Commissioner Andrew has had discussions with Abby from Edgewater and NHMA for legal advice, searching for a mechanism to adjust the budget. As of Q3 the District has spent \$70,000 less than it has budgeted. Taking into consideration we have not completed Q4. There would be a need for a special meeting of the district with no less than 50% of the registered voters in attendance. Commissioner Michael explained that there is a liquidity issue, due to the outstanding bills that have not been collected. Treasurer Jamie discusses issues in timing, what it would take to post such hearing (at least 6 weeks) and the effect it may have on the Towns ability to set a tax rate. Chairman Andrew suggests further discussion in a nonpublic session as it pertains to those who have not paid their outstanding invoice.

Chairman Andrew addressed the public and explained there would be limited time at the end of the meeting for questions and concerns.

The board is considering ways to reduce Aquamen's visits to the Peninsula by the training of Chairman Andrew in chlorine injector maintenance to reduce Aquamen visits. Commissioner Michael discusses the need for professionalism among commissioners so that it doesn't depend on the Commissioners to perform maintenance tasks. Treasure Jamie discusses Insurance liability as well. Commissioner Susan suggests that Chairman Andrew become knowledgeable about the system and be able to check

and document the system but not physically adjust the system and perhaps still be able to reduce the visits. It is suggested that all three commissioners be trained to check and document system maintenance. That this process can be documented and duplicated to the next board. Chairman Andrew mentions the UNH Water Management Curriculum Program and its potential benefits for the community. Commissioner Susan has signed up to attend and Chairman Andrew discusses the possibility of attending a budget workshop to learn about grant opportunities.

Chairman Andrew has investigated FEMA Emergency Grants and New Hampshire Federal Emergency Water Source Grants, however these grants require a State of Emergency, declared by the Governor. Without the State of Emergency, the funds it is match, 50% match to a loan. We need to pursue 100% Grant money. Commissioner Michael mentions reaching out to state representatives and senators for support and guidance. Chairman Andrew has reached out but has not gotten response.

Chairman Andrew makes a motion for the commissioners to reach out individually to our state representatives and senators and ask for any encouragement, enlightenment or help to move forward. The motion is second, the motion passes.

Love our Lake Committee

Michael reports that Andrew was there to co-chair. 17 people attended the last meeting. He expresses his gratitude for the support. Michael provides a summary of the Love of Lakes meeting, highlighting the success of the chemical treatment. What is left on the surface is Water shield. This requires a different chemical. It is suggested by John from Seapro to do a one treatment shot next year and any remaining lilies will be treated at the same time. Michael estimates that they will probably ask for \$15,000 for next year to continue the management plan. Jeff Perry gave the community a dock. Committee to meet Sept 19 to survey suggested spots to be considered for placement. Michael discusses the plan to restore beach areas and the potential locations for a new dock and beach. There may be a need for a \$1,000 budget to clear the shoreline for the new dock. The money is there and has already been approved. In response to a resident's concern with vandalism, Chairman Andrew emphasizes the importance of visibility and accessibility for the new dock and beach area.

Public Comments and Billing Concerns

The commissioners opened the meeting for public questions and concerns. The Board responded to individuals' questions and concerns as presented.

There was discussion initiated from someone with experience with water systems, sharing that the systems can be really fussy and supports the 'no touch approach' to the system.

The commissioners addressed "disconnect" between billed amounts and actual usage. Commissioner Michael directed community members to the explanatory letter on the website and offered to provide the letter if they do not have access to the website. And acknowledges the concerns and suggests a separate conversation to address specific billing questions.

The Treasurer explains that the monies have to be raised, not through taxes. The only other option will be a special assessment to all water users. Which would be divided equally among all users.

Chairman Andrew thanks the attendees for their patience and participation in the meeting.

Chairman Andrew made a motion to go into a non-public session, and seal the those minutes, motion was seconded and passed.

The chairman calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which is seconded and passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:36