

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, September 13, 2008
District Office 9:30 A.M.**

Call To Order – Karl Schmid called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

Roll Call – Karl Schmid (Commissioner), Chris Demers (Commissioner), and Beverly Jacobs (Commissioner).

Visitors – June Soule, Sandy Schmid, Kerry McCall, Don and Beverly Hasbrouck, Mike Bonanno, Ken King, Tom Eighmy, Peter Olander, Darlene Simboli, Joel and Annemarie Godston, Barbara Keating, and Janice Neubauer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting (08.09.08) – After review and a brief discussion Sandy Schmid moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written, seconded by Mike Bonanno. Motion passed.

Old Business

1) Water Committee Update

- a) **Water Usage** – Commissioner Schmid stated the average daily water usage for August 08 was 49,000 gallons, compared to 49,000 gallons in August 07 and 38,000 in August of 06.
- b) **Water Report** - Commissioner Schmid stated that Don Drew and Granite State Rural Water has been conducting a leak survey, checking each curb stop and house for signs of leaking. So far, they haven't found any houses with issues. The contracts with Horne Excavating and Harold Clough have been signed.
- c) **New Water Sources** – Commissioner Schmid stated that the top priority is to find new sources of water. A meeting is being arranged with Chuck Goodling and VP Steve for this coming week, with the Water Committee and anyone else who would like to attend. Kerry McCall asked what our current water capacity is. Commissioner Schmid replied that we run at internal capacity all of the time, somewhere in the low 40k to 45k GWD and the balance is purchased from Woodsville Water & Light at a significantly higher cost than residents of Woodsville are charged. The water from the gravel well has been steadily declining due to the filter material being plugged up. The first thought was to dig out the filter material but we are DES certified as a ground water source and must be careful that we don't get classified as a surface water source because that requires more testing and increases operation costs. The input from Mike Metcalf was that if you came back and tried to put that same well in today you would be classified as surface water and we don't have a 75 foot setback. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Schmid stated that the pursuit of additional water supply is the way we would like to go.

2) **Planning Board Update**

- a) **Zoning Applications** - We had two new applications, one of which was passed and the other was denied because it was too close to the road and has been referred to the Zoning Board of Adjustments.
- b) **Zoning Officer Report** - No report received. The Zoning Officer, Steve Robbins, resigned effective October 1st. The Commissioners and Planning Board Chair Sandy Schmid have interviewed one candidate and will be interviewing another after today's meeting. Sandy Schmid has gone through the zoning application files to prepare them for the new Zoning Officer. Schmid has also revised the *Mountain Lakes Current Status of Zoning Applications* form and encourages everyone to use the *Incident Report* form and the new Zoning Officer will follow up on it.
- c) **Master Plan** – Sandy Schmid stated that the Planning Board is updating the Master Plan, which is a requirement of the Planning Board. Part of updating the Master Plan is making recommendations. The Water Department is a section of the Master Plan and recommendations can include community education, obtaining low use showerheads, etc. The Master Plan Sub-Committee has finished Section II and is 2/3 of the way through Section III. Utilities will be the next section followed by Recreation. The Committee meets every two weeks and everyone is encouraged to attend. Also, a reminder that the minutes from the Planning Board can be found on the website www.mtlakesnh.com. Joel Godston requested input from the Commissioners for the job description for accountant, head lifeguard, zoning officer to be included in Section II.
- d) **Wetlands Mapping** – John Severance and Elise Lawson came September 5th and did phase one of their two day field days of looking for wetlands. We are trying to get a map of the wetlands overlaid on our tax map. Severance and Lawson will be here again next Tuesday to finish up the field days. Joel Godston asked if there is any cost associated with the wetlands mapping and Sandy Schmid replied that we are paying for the wetlands to be mapped and will try to get them mapped on our tax map if possible, although there could be additional costs down the road. Commissioner Schmid stated that the contract is for \$3,400.00.
- e) **Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act [CSPA] Conference** - Janice Neubauer attended the CSPA conference and reported that the basic information she received was something we were already aware of. Mountain Lakes is protected by the CSPA. DES acknowledges our lots are small and as such can't have the setbacks as other lakes so each of our cases must be decided individually. DES will not rule on something preexisting but anything new on lakefront property has to have an approval from DES, including cutting a tree. Neubauer referred to a pamphlet *Do You Live By a Lake, River...* that would be informative for the lake front property owners. Neubauer said any lots on the lake front not already built on may not be able to be built on because of the new regulations. Joel Godston asked who is the enforcing body for shoreline protection? Neubauer replied that it is the state and they are suing towns who are not complying with this requirement. Commissioner Schmid stated that if you want to report a violation you

send it to the town, whereas Joel Godston stated that he recommends sending it to the state. Tom Eighmy stated that the theme of the conference was more or less that we have septic tanks under control in the state. Regarding surface runoff the simple answer is don't fertilize your lawns and keep buffers best you can at the shoreline with a 50 foot natural vegetation buffer, if possible. You are allowed a 6-foot path down to the shoreline but it should be curved so it isn't a straight path for runoff.

- 3) **Recreation Update** – Commissioner Jacobs summarized the report from Luke, Head Lifeguard. Labor Day was a success but we do have a need for Recreation Volunteers. Mike Bonanno reported that at the last Recreation Committee meeting, held Monday, September 8th, the Recreation Committee had discussed reinitiating the Mountain Lakes Community Association because there are some people interested in it. Joel Godston suggested having those people join various committees instead of reinitiating the Association. Commissioner Schmid stated that there is some legality with reinitiating the Association although we do need volunteers. Mike Bonanno reported that the pool was open an extra seven nights with 114 plus swimmers during the extra hours. There was a brief discussion about the 4th of July event. Peter Olander and two houseguests did most of the clean up and Demers reported that approximately 250 people attended the event. Peter Olander stated that Ryan submitted \$1,500.00 in receipts for the fireworks and would want more money for next year. Olander referred Ryan to the Commissioners. Janice Neubauer stated that the DES has a damming position on fireworks and it may be interesting to get the paper on it. Commissioner Schmid stated there had been research on that a couple of years ago and found that special fireworks are made for municipalities.
- a) **Oktoberfest** – Mike Bonanno announced the Oktoberfest Weekend coming up on October 11th and 12th that will include apple picking, pumpkin carving, face painting, pancake breakfast and apple pie making. Commissioner Schmid asked if the breakfast will be a fund raising event and Bonanno stated that it would be.
- b) **Halloween Party** – Mike Bonanno announced the Halloween costume party scheduled for November 1st. Commissioner Schmid asked if this event will be a fundraiser and Bonanno stated that it isn't but is something we could talk about. Annemarie Godston suggested holding a raffle at the event.
- 4) **District**
- Financials** – Commissioner Schmid stated that with the approach of the 4th quarter we are doing a forecast to see if we are on budget. We are already over budget on two items in the Water budget due to 6 water breaks and 3 freeze ups in addition to the amount of water we have purchased from Woodsville Water & Light. Renee Cota's recommendation is to issue a supplemental water bill. The shortfall will be approximately \$5,600.00 if we don't have any new expenses through the end of the year. This would require a supplemental water bill for \$35.00 to \$50.00. Barbara Keating initiated a brief discussion regarding water conservation options. Commissioner Schmid stated that the upward trend is bigger homes and bigger homes use more

water and agreed with Keating that the Water Department should do some education regarding low use fixtures. Sandy Schmid stated that we need to inform the Mountain Lake public and try to get more involvement but it cost money to send out a mailing. We try to put as much on the website as we can. Don Drew sends an email whenever there is a break. Commissioner Schmid stated that Don Drew has been getting quotes for water meters which Commissioner Schmid stated is inevitable but not immediate. The cost for a water meter system may run approximately \$500.00 per home and approximately \$2,000.00 for the software to run the system. If meters are installed, the homes would be inspected and water conservation recommendations could be offered. Commissioner Schmid moved to issue a supplemental water bill up to \$50.00, seconded by Commissioner Demers. Motion passed.

Joel Godston questioned line 4019 of the Water Department budget. If the 2008 budget figure is derived from \$400 times the number of properties and we have a balance remaining of \$48,602.90 does that represent unpaid bills? If so, they should have their water shut off and the \$49,000.00 should be looked at. Commissioner Schmid said we don't have that much in outstanding bills so he will ask Renee Cota how she came up with that figure.

New Business – Mike Bonanno requested that the Commissioners go into Executive Session at regarding paperwork Bonanno submitted to the Commissioners. At 11:01 A.M. Commissioner Schmid moved to go into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Demers. Motion passed.

At 11:17 A.M. the Commissioners exited the Executive Session and resumed the public meeting.

Mike Bonanno moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Schmid. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle G. Chamberlain