

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, January 10, 2009
District Office 9:30 A.M.**

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

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

Visitors – Sandy Schmid, Richard Chamberlain, Kerry McCall, Mike Bonanno, Joel Godston, Peter Olander, Rosie Farr, Ed Westman, and June Soule.

Minutes of Previous Meetings (11.08.08) – The December 2008 Commissioner meeting was canceled due to a power outage that affected the District Office. Godston recommended that in the future bolding the conservation tip would help it stand out. Commissioner Schmid recommended emailing the conservation tips to the residents. Sandy Schmid moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Godston. Motion passed.

Old Business

- 1) **Recreation Update** – Bonanno stated the need for more Recreation Committee members as there are only three at this time, himself, Commissioner Jacobs and Karen Rajjester. Sandy Schmid asked what happened to the people who were interested in joining the Recreation Committee. Bonanno replied that he wasn't sure, he has emailed them more than once without any response. Olander will get contact information of the interested people to Godston so he can follow-up with them.
 - a) **Fireworks** - Commissioner Jacobs stated that we are still going to have fireworks even though Ryan increased his price from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00. Olander stated that he has spoken with Ryan, who expects to receive his pyrotechnic license by April. Ryan has been spending quite a bit more on our fireworks than we had been paying for but he was allowed to use us on his resume in return. Fireworks are the most popular event according to our 2006 survey, generating pleasure for the residents. Bonanno recommending waiting for the Budget Hearing and then sending the issue back to the Recreation Committee for their February meeting.
 - b) **Winterfest** - Winterfest is scheduled for February 28th with a potluck at 4:00 P.M. Sandy Schmid asked if there was a reason why we didn't schedule Winterfest to coincide with any February school vacations. Sixty-five percent of our residents are out of state and we owe it to them to schedule events when they can attend. Commissioner Schmid stated that the concern is the message they are getting. Bonanno replied that the schedule is somewhat dependent on Glenn Hatch's schedule and has to avoid a schedule conflict with basketball tournaments. Winterfest is always well attended regardless of the date even though NH and MA have February vacation on different weeks.
 - c) **Calendar of Events** – The 2009 Calendar of Events has been completed. The next scheduled event is a skating party on February 14th from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.m. with hot chocolate and cookies.

Recreation Report Unavailable At This Time

2) Planning Board Update

- a) **Zoning Officer Report** - Sandy Schmid summarized the Zoning Application Status Report and the Incident Report. These two reports will be included with the Commissioner's Meeting minutes with copies available at the District Office.

Discussion of Incident Report:

FAUGHNAN – A letter went out to her last week stating that if she doesn't respond we will take legal action regarding her unfinished garage.

SILVEIRA – A letter went out to him last week stating that if he doesn't respond we will take legal action regarding the abandoned property on Kearsarge Dr.

There was a discussion regarding the letters that were sent to Faughnan and Silveira. McCall is concerned that the District and the Town of Haverhill don't both pursue the same issue which may create a duplication of effort and expense for the District as well as the Town. Commissioner Schmid stated that our issues are different. We are enforcing our zoning ordinance regarding abandoned structures and the Town of Haverhill has been slow to act on the issues with this property with the prior owner.

- b) **Master Plan** - Sandy Schmid reported that a Public Hearing was held Thursday, January 8, 2009 for the new Master Plan, which has been adopted by the Planning Board. Copies are available at the District Office. Business Office will be added to the function list for the District Office on page 16.
- c) **Zoning Permit** – Sandy Schmid reported that we don't have an application for any new construction but that we do have one for the Weber place that had so much damage it required an application. The Planning Board doesn't want to set a precedent that allows the property owner to be the one who decides when an application is or isn't required.

3) Water Committee Update

- a) **Water Usage** – Commissioner Schmid reported the water usage for December 2008 averaged 45,671 GPD compared to December 2007 at 42,032 GPD. We are using more water than we can supply from our own sources, which is the reason for the increase in the water bill.
- b) **Water Report** – Commissioner Schmid stated that Don Drew has stopped the leak detection survey for the winter months but will resume later this year. Four minor leaks have been found from curb stops into the house.
- c) **Water Break / Power Outage** – Commissioner Schmid reported that we had a 6" water main break on Bear Rd. the same day we had the power outage. Kevin Horne and Harold Clough responded quickly, however we experienced a possible 30 to 40 thousand gallon loss that day.

- d) **Search for New Water Sources** - Commissioner Schmid stated that the Water Committee has met with two engineers and the DES Water Department regarding water source improvement. The capacity of the existing wells needs to be determined, however it could take as long as a year to get that information. We have two wells not in service right now, one of which is an artesian well by the ski area that was dug but then determined it wouldn't produce at a good rate. If we can get a 60 gallon/minute rate that would be great.

Maintenance and Water Department Report submitted by Don Drew:

Maintenance: First and foremost we would like to put out best wishes to Charlie Edson. He is home after heart surgery and is in the care of his private nurse (Ann) and side kick Mandy. **GET WELL SOON Charlie**

The maintenance dept. shifts gears for the winter months and we have been checking buildings daily for any problems things such as heat, clearing roofs, decks and walkways. We were without power at the office and a few homes for 4 days, after a massive ice storm Dec. 12th, during this time we helped clear roads of fallen trees and to locate and mark downed power lines for PSNH. The ice rink is very very good and we have more than enough snow to slide, so go and enjoy the lodge and all it has to offer inside and out.

Water Dept: On Dec. 12 we had a 6 inch water main break on Bear rd. to go along with the ice storm and power outage that swept the area. *Thank you to Karl and Sandy Schmid who worked as our dispatch until 6:30 that eve.* The break took about 6 hours to repair and once again a quick response from Horne Excavating and Harold Clough. The chambers did not have power and we ran the system on manual for a few days but for the most part things went pretty good.

I would like to thank Chris Demers, Karl Schmid and Rick Blakeslee for covering the water and grounds while I enjoyed some vacation time with my family.

WARNING: THE IS ICE ON THE LAKES COULD BE VERY THIN IN PLACES, PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR CHILDREN, PETS AND STUPID ADULTS WHO DON'T CHECK THE THICKNESS.

Don Drew , Maintenance / Water Dept.

4) **District**

- a) **District Report** – Commissioner Schmid summarized the District report, pointing out that the major part of the legal fees last year were for the Bath issue which came to a favorable ruling for us from the Public Utilities Commission. We are able to bill them for the capital expenses so they are paying at the same rate we are.
- b) **Financials** – Commissioner Schmid reported that we ended up with a District Budget surplus of \$7,626.00, however we overspent \$6,928.00 in the Water Department budget. Part of the reason we

came in under budget for the District was that the auditing process came in well under what the auditor had anticipated. The overage in the Water Department was largely due to the number of water breaks we had in 2008.

Financial Report submitted by Renee Cota:

Another year is over and a productive one at that. We accomplished our main objectives for the district as well as some surprises. I will hit on some of the high points.

Recreationally we offered a diverse array of activities. These included a Winterfest, pancake breakfast, a 4th of July beach celebration, Beach Day, Fishing Derby, Fireworks, the Oktoberfest and a Halloween Party. There was great ice-skating in 08' and 09' is shaping up nicely. We had cross-country skiing and lots of sledding. We have more activities this year for all ages and our summer program went well. We had some of the best lifeguards this past summer and we stayed within our budget.

The retaining wall was installed by the snack bar and by doing this the beautiful Lilac bush needed to be relocated. We purchased two kayaks, and a major project was begun, the replacement of the Lodge roof, it has been completed in part. It is now Hunter green and is made of metal so that the snow will slide off on its own. Those are the highlights.

We have spent a considerable amount in lawyer fees this year as a result of issues with Bath residents of Mountain Lakes and the tree removal ordered for the Dam repair. The Bath issue has been settled and the tree issue is ongoing but is now being paid for by our insurance company. Legal fees in this area should not be an issue for 2009.

We had six water main breaks and four homeowner freeze ups this year. Our overall water usage has been high because of these unforeseen issues. Because of these issues, we purchased a significant amount of water from Woodsville Water & Light. This expense as well as the elevated expense repairing the breaks are the direct reason our water budget has exceeded the amount voted on at the Annual Meeting. However, we applied to DRA to use fund balance to pay for these expenses and DRA approved the increased expenditures. This kept us from needing a supplemental water bill to pay for them. In cooperation with Granite State Rural Water Don Drew conducted a leak survey on 1/3 of the district, which brought forth 4 minor leaks that have subsequently been repaired. We look forward to completing the survey in 2009. Two water pumps were struck by lightning early this year. Our insurance company paid for the repair and

replacement of the pumps and equipment affected except for a \$1,000 deductible.

Financially speaking we accomplished a lot with in our allowable operating budgets. We have ended the year with an adequate fund balance to take us through until the 2009 budget is adopted.

Sincerely,

Renee Cota, District Accountant

New Business – None.

Sandy Schmid moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kerry McCall. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle G. Chamberlain