

**MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
July 7, 2012**

Call to Order: Christopher Demers called the meeting to order at 9:33 A.M.

Roll Call: Christopher Demers, Beverly Jacobs and Bob Long

Residents in Attendance: Laraine King, Ken King, Darlene Simboli, Sybil Owens, Francine Bowman, Mike Bonanno, Randy Berenson, Cindy Berenson, David R. Martella, Genefer Lampert, Barbara Keating, Tom Eighmy, Beverly Eighmy, Heather Long

Minutes of the Previous Meeting (6/11/12): Laraine King brought up page 4, under New Business, item #1. It should read “Service Animals” rather than “seeing eye dogs”. She added that this needs to be enforced since there have been dogs inside the office. Christopher Demers made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the correction by Laraine King. Bob Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

District

1. District Report:

All water customers have either paid off their bills or made the necessary partial payments. We are in good shape. Marsha Luce will be sending statements for the August due date.

Marsha Luce has been speaking with WGSB regarding our loans. With the lower interest rates we are working on saving a large amount of money. We cannot consolidate the loans, but we can save on interest. More to come on that. Of course, the commissioners will have to approve.

The District had to borrow \$60,000 from the Water Department to tide over until the tax payment comes in mid to late July. Marsha Luce was able to do this to avoid a tax anticipated loan for this period. Marsha Luce will be paying back the Water Department as soon as the tax payments arrive. This is mentioned because it is not shown in the financials.

Marsha Luce has been keeping Francine Bowman up-to-date on money used for salaries for summer help. Francine Bowman has been doing a great job running the snack bar, keeping track of food, and organizing tons of activities.

Marsha Luce would like to commend Ryan Olney and Nate Drew for their work here. They're always early, working hard; and they've kept the pool beautiful.

Robert Roudebush has installed a new walkway to go around the backside of the bulletin board. It leads more people to view the real estate listings. Beautiful job, Robert!

7/16/12 - Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Bielarski family.

2. **Financials:** Reviewed
3. **Vouchers:** Christopher Demers made a motion to approve the vouchers for the month of June. Bob Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recreation Update:

1. **Proposal for Key to Pool:** Darlene Simboli proposed that the Commissioners allow home owners to have a seasonal key to the pool. This would be similar to home owners with a key to the tennis court. Rather than signing out a single key to the pool, each home owner would have their key to the pool. There has been no issue with the Responsible Adult Program; taking out a key after hours and closing the pool.

Christopher Demers mentioned that they've had trouble scheduling clean and chemicals for the pool though. Darlene Simboli said that she spoke with Don Drew about it at the Recreation Committee Meeting and said that the worst case scenario would be that someone could use the pool at 10 A.M.

Christopher Demers said that while the Responsible Adult Program was in place some people wouldn't know to go to the pool after hours because they didn't know someone had the key.

Darlene Simboli said that there's an emergency phone and a camera at the pool.

Laraine King suggested that they have a checklist contract for closing the pool.

Mike Bonanno brought up that someone had offered \$4,000 to install a card key system for the pool. He pointed out that it would be better for tracking who used the pool and who was last to leave. Bob Long said that was a bit over the top for the amount of people that are going to use the pool.

The question of liability came up and Christopher Demers answered that they do not need lifeguards.

Francine Bowman asked what the worst case scenario would be if the pool was not closed down properly such as not covering the pool. Bob Long said that it would take a little bit more to clean it.

Beverly Jacobs suggested they give the proposed idea a try for a week and see how it goes. Bob Long said they will have to get documentation on the rules and regulations for this. It will cover things such as opening and closing hours for the pool, the clean up and proper procedure for closing the pool.

2. **Incident Report:**

Francine Bowman reported that a 16 year old who was a guest of the Lalmonds came extremely close to drowning. Apparently he didn't have the skills, energy or the breath to keep swimming. He was at the buoy when several residents jumped in the water to help and give him a floatation device.

Bob Long announced that they would get a lifesaving ring for the upper lake if they did not already have one to put out there.

The residents said that the child was minutes away from drowning.

Randy Berenson brought up the issue with insurance/liability. He pointed out that a sign needs to be posted on the upper lake stating "No Lifeguards on Duty. Swim at Your Own Risk." Francine Bowman said a sign would be made and posted by the following Monday.

Randy Berenson also suggested that the continued training of the lifeguards be kept up by having mock drills.

A huge thank you goes out to the community members who volunteered to jump in the water to save this child's life!

3. **Lodge:** Randy Berenson brought up that there has been some issues with the lodge lately. According to the rules and regulations for the lodge, it states that loud music be shut off by 12 A.M. and to be out by 2 A.M. Yet now, he found that there are some bookings for parties that are coming up that involve an overnight stay and are approved.

Bob Long did confirm that a group was approved to stay overnight. It includes a group of children that will have adult supervision. Beverly Jacobs added that they do this every year.

There was question of an overnight booking for a high school reunion at the lodge. This will be double checked to avoid an all night party.

Randy Berenson asked why make an exception for any specific group or set of individuals when the rules and regulations for the lodge has already been voted on and accepted for everyone to abide to. Bob Long did say that it was not agreed that they would allow an exception to be made for groups such as the boy scouts, school groups, etc. However, in practice, this has always been happening. Randy Berenson replied that everyone was aware that these bookings happen, but that was why they made these rules for the lodge: to avoid overnights and all night parties. Heather Long also pointed out that when they were creating the rules for the lodge this was not discussed and that school groups are separate. She went on to say that it's always been no overnights except for these groups.

Beverly Jacobs brought up a September booking that may be in question of an overnight stay. Christopher Demers added that for events such as weddings, it's required that they book two days for set up and clean up.

Bob Long said that after the last incident he sat down with Marsha Luce to have her go over the contract piece by piece. She is now doing that with everyone who rents the lodge.

Randy Berenson suggested that a camera be installed at the lodge. He said there has been some reckless behavior such as doing doughnuts in the driveway. Bob Long said that will be looked into for next year's budget. Francine Bowman asked when are the tapes looked at and by who. Ken King said that he, Don Drew and Marsha Luce have access to the tapes and they are looked at when some sort of incident happens.

4. Summer Program & Employees:

Mike Bonanno asked if parking passes are being checked. Francine Bowman confirmed that they were being checked.

Francine Bowman brought up that there has been an issue with the lifeguards not receiving their raises of an extra \$0.25 per hour each year. This has been going on for 3 years. She suggested that they start giving the lifeguards their raise today. Francine Bowman said that this staff deserves it; they work hard and are members of the community. To avoid running over the budget, Bob Long suggested that they wait to discuss bonuses. Bob Long made a motion that the lifeguards and summer staff receive their \$0.25 raise starting today retro active to the beginning of the year. Christopher Demers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Berenson asked if background checks have been done on Summer Program employees. It's especially important to have them done on employees whose job requires interaction with kids. Randy Berenson said this could be a liability issue. Anyone 18 years and over who is an employee of the District will need to have current background checks done.

5. Recreation Report:

Sybil Owens brought up that the cases for the bulletin board are down.

Randy Berenson brought up that the tables need to be stained and that the old tables at the beach are peeling quite badly. Bob Long said the new tables are stained rather than painted to prevent peeling. He will talk to Don about the other tables.

Mike Bonanno asked if there was an update on the phone. Bob Long presented the three options for the phone. Discussion followed. 911 can be dialed for free on a payphone. The phone will not fall under the security budget. The money in the security budget will be used for the dry hydrant. Bob Long made a motion to install the payphone which will

cost approximately \$300, \$60 installation fee and the monthly fee of about \$35. Christopher Demers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Berenson suggested that at the beginning of the year, Marsha Luce have a checklist of what needs to be done to get Rec. in perspective because we seem to loose track of things such as the background checks. He added that communication needs to flow better between Rec. and the commissioners. He went on to say that items that have been discussed and voted on have trouble coming into action such as posting signs. Bob Long says he has been working with Don Drew to get things done and while some things may be missed, he welcomes those who would like to bring them up to his attention so that they can be address and action can be taken. It was suggested that to make communication flow a bit better and to avoid less confusion, that the commissioners each take on certain tasks to make sure they get taken care of. Bob Long said that was a great idea and that he would take it upon himself to create a action item checklist for the commissioners. At the Commissioners Meetings, they will each take on different tasks that they will be responsible for. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Heather Long reported that events have been a hit this summer. The next big event will be at the lodge. They will have the band, “Still Kick’n” and are looking into charging \$2 per ticket to make sure they do not exceed the max of 75 people at the lodge. They’re also considering having fundraisers and may also sell food to raise money as well.

Randy Berenson said they may be discouraging people in participating in Rec. because of the new process in which residents can be voting members of the committee. He brought up the issue that it’s almost impossible for people who live far away to attend that many meetings but would still like to be an active voting member. Recently, it was decided that in order to be a voting member of the committee, residents have to attend at least 6 meetings and take charge of at least 1 event. This will be discussed further at the next Rec. Meeting.

4. **Dogs on Beach:** Residents can walk by with their dogs, but the rule is that no dogs are allowed on beach areas. This includes the grass on the beach area as well. However, after hours the rules are not enforced.

Water Committee Update

1. **Water Usage:** The water usage for the month of June was:

Artesian Well	3,243 gallons
Gravel Well	13,424 gallons
WW&L	7,857 gallons
June 2012 Total	23,900 gallons

2. **Water Report:** Ken King suggest that meters be put up as an incentive to conserve water. Discussed possible ways to conserve water, including a bulk purchase of toilets that use less water and shower heads. Laraine King suggested the bulk purchase, hoping to get a discount.

This will be discussed further at the Water Committee Meeting.

Bob Long made a motion to switch the funds from the Security Budget to the Dry Hydrant Budget. Christopher Demers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Planning Board Update

1. Mike Bonanno asked the Commissioners to start enforcing the fines sent to the two homes in violation of the Zoning Ordinance. Laraine King said that the car on Hanover Drive has been removed even though it was registered. The owner had it towed. Mike Bonanno asked if Marsha Luce or the Zoning Officer could send a letter to confirm that the car has been removed. Bob Long and Christopher Demers said they will take care of the other in violation of the ordinance.
2. **VLAP:** Tom Eighmy presented the VLAP report for 2011. There is a copy in the office for those seeking further detail. The general lake quality is good. There are no noxious invasive weeds observed in the 2011 report. However, it's important to follow steps to preserve the lakes which Tom Eighmy went over. Tom Eighmy urges that we keep our buffers and setbacks, washing boats before entering them into the lake, and posting signs to educate the public on the Rock Snot, Asian Milfoil and Poison Algae to keep them out of the lake.

Christopher Demers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Long seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faustina Lalmond