

MOUNTAIN LAKES DISTRICT
WATER COMMITTEE MEETING via Zoom Video Conferencing
November 5, 2020
AMENDED and APPROVED

Chair Patricia Brady read a statement that the Committee was authorized to meet electronically due to the declared state of emergency (COVID-19), that the meeting had been properly noticed and information given to the public on how to join the meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing, and that all votes would be by roll call, in accordance with the provisions of the Governor's emergency order.

Committee Roll Call: Patricia Brady (alone), Bob Long (alone), Ed Rajsteter (alone), Mark Johanson (alone), Ken King (alone), Don Drew (Maintenance/Water Project Manager – alone) were present via Zoom.

Guests Present: Jim Vernon of Nobis Engineering was present via Zoom.

Call to Order: Patricia Brady called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Minutes Approval – October 1, 2020: Mark Johanson moved to approve; Ed Rajsteter seconded. Roll Call Vote: Patricia Brady – aye, Bob Long – aye, Ed Rajsteter – aye, Mark Johanson – aye, Ken King – aye, Don Drew – aye; and motion passed.

Water Source Project: Jim Vernon of Nobis Engineering said he worked with a drilling contractor to get estimates for the MLD 2021 budget. He said the two sites he sees as most favorable are the gravel pit site on French Pond Road (it already has one well and a second well may make it a feasible source) along with the ballfield site by the Lodge (the test pit looked favorable but the excavation did not hit water). He recommended a phased approach; drilling/testing both sites in 2021 for preliminary yield and water samples, then step back to consider the next move based on the findings. Don Drew said he put the numbers together to come up with a figure of \$30,000 for engineering, drilling, oversight, and installation of a screened well at each of the two sites and recommended both sites be done simultaneously as there would be a savings in transportation fees from the drilling contractor. He noted these would be preliminary tests and the estimate does not include state permitting or state required water testing needed to put a well into service. Those costs are substantial and could be done in 2022 if preliminary findings are good.

After discussion, Patricia Brady made a motion to prepare a request to ask the District to invest \$30,000 to explore and set wells in two locations that look reasonably favorable. Ed Rajsteter seconded. Roll Call Vote: Patricia Brady – aye, Bob Long – aye, Ed Rajsteter – aye, Mark Johanson – aye, Ken King – aye, Don Drew – aye; and motion passed. The Committee discussed the need to present and explain the project to the voters and to answer questions at the annual meeting. Jim Vernon said he would be available for the annual meeting to help with questions about the project if needed.

Water System Update: Don Drew reported usage in October averaged 27,000 gallons per day and noted anything under 30,000 is a bonus.

Incident Report: Don Drew said drought monitoring is ongoing and our drought status is not back to normal yet. He also noted there was a “present” result for Total Coliform in the October monthly testing. Required expanded re-tests were done immediately and he drove the samples to Concord; all five follow-up tests came back with “absent” results.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bear Road Water Main Project: Don Drew said the project is complete and the area has been seeded.

Chambers Area Meters: The overall project is on hold, however Don Drew said they will be able to add a $\frac{3}{4}$ meter already in inventory to the vault recently discovered on French Pond Road. The meter will give gallons per minute readings which will be helpful in leak detection for low money. He said the cost to connect the meter to the SCADA system is estimated at \$11,000; that part of the project may wait to see what happens with the water source project in the area.

Chambers Riser Repair: Don Drew reported a cost of about \$6,500 to have a replacement riser made and installed. He said he already ordered the precast and recommended installing it this year as the riser is a critical element of the system. After discussion of the need to use funds from the Water Emergency Capital Reserve Fund to pay for the repair/replacement, Bob Long moved to move forward with the repair and Mark Johanson seconded. ~~AS AMENDED: Ed Rajsteter moved to adjourn; Mark Johanson seconded.~~ Roll Call Vote: Patricia Brady – aye, Bob Long – aye, Ed Rajsteter – aye, Mark Johanson – aye, Ken King – aye, Don Drew – aye; and motion passed.

French Pond Road Repaving Project: Don Drew reported the work is completed and they will clean/vacuum the valve boxes in the area.

Fracking: The Committee agreed to take this off the list based on the information and discussion noted above in Water Source Project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Warrant Article(s): The Committee discussed proposing a warrant article for \$30,000 to take the next steps in the water source search. Don Drew also noted he had a quote for \$3,200 for cleaning and inspecting the chambers which is due in 2021. The Committee discussed a possible rate increase along with the possibility of meeting with Woodsville Water & Light to attempt renegotiation of the current contract. They agreed to ask for a meeting when management changes are further along. ***Kristi Garofalo said one budget line – 2-5098 Fees/Registrations – has run over budget 3 out of the last 5 years; she will send a spreadsheet on that line to Committee members.***

Possible Tariff Change: Patricia Brady shared a request from the Planning Board that the Committee consider a possible tariff change to charge homeowners who fill personal swimming pools. She noted the Board was working on a zoning ordinance amendment specifically for swimming pools and hopes to have it considered at the 2021 annual meeting. After discussion, the Committee agreed to wait and see what the Planning Board does with the zoning amendment before considering a tariff change.

Adjournment: Ed Rajsteter moved to adjourn; Mark Johanson seconded. Roll Call Vote: Patricia Brady – aye, Bob Long – aye, Ed Rajsteter – aye, Mark Johanson – aye, Ken King – aye, Don Drew – aye; and motion passed.

Next meeting date: Thursday, Dec. 3 at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kristi Garofalo