

LAKE WAPOGASSET & BEAR TRAP LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES, November 4, 2019

The November meeting of the LWBT Sanitary District was called to order by President Dave Erspamer at 7:00 in the District Office.

Commissioners present: Dave Erspamer, Commissioner-President; Mark Tryggestad, Commissioner-Treasurer; Dennis Badman, Commissioner-Secretary; Mark Jacobson, Commissioner.

Employees present: Neil Pickard, Chad Ruff and Heidi Erspamer.

Guest present: Ryan Hanson

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Commissioner Tryggestad and a second by Commissioner Jacobson. Motion passed. Publication of the open meeting notice was acknowledged.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Total income for the month of September was \$322 and total expenses were \$33,166.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Office

Heidi reported that other than our quarterly DNR and tax filings, this has been a quiet month. One new item is that the office bathroom is being renovated, with new flooring and a new toilet being installed.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Maintenance and Weed Harvester

Neil provided a written summary of October's maintenance activities. Staff has been conducting Fall lift station inspections and repairs (12 lift stations). They also replaced floats, switches and battery back-ups throughout the system as part of our regular maintenance. Commissioner Badman added that he will contact Bones from the City of Amery to find out who they use to seal the insides of their lift stations. Also, he reported that he has found some mats that will best meet our needs and plans to move forward with ordering them. Regarding the harvester, Neil reported that the dump truck needs some regular maintenance through Toombs (electrical, fluids, etc.) before the next harvesting season. Neil and Denny will be meeting next week to discuss the 2020 harvest. Steve Schieffer recently submitted his final report for the 2019 harvesting season.

OLD BUSINESS

Lake Management. Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental, has agreed to write a grant proposal for DNR funds in order for the Sanitary District to begin the Lake Management Plan revision process. Heidi is to clarify with Cheryl that the grant can be used for a required plant survey (through Steve Schieffer) in addition to general project planning. The board unanimously approved proceeding with Cheryl and the DNR grant proposal upon clarification.

Conservancy. Commissioner Jacobson reported on a recent communication from Dane Christenson, who confirmed for the board that Lakecrest Farms is aware that we are still interested in doing a project to abate the South Shore run-off. Related to this, the Lake Association will be conducting soil samples from property owner around our lakes. Samples collected near the run-off and also up the Balsam Branch are of particular interest.

Operating Permit. Commissioner Tryggestad summarized findings from our Operating Permit renewal application. The DNR is requesting that we conduct a pond treatment study, as well as install a flow meter on Lift Station #1 (already budgeted and installation in progress). Given high chloride and nitrate levels at test well site #803, it appears that there is some leakage from our main treatment cell. Heidi has discussed this with our engineer, Les Mateffy, and he believes we can do the treatment study with his help for around \$5,000. Commissioner Badman made a motion to proceed with the

DNR request for a pond study in 2020 and that we implement the recommendations based on findings in 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Erspamer and passed. Heidi will contact Les to get his project underway.

Commissioner Tryggested continued with a discussion on ways wastewater can be treated, such as spraying and divergent canals. The bottom line is that other treatment options are more expensive than what we already have and, according to the DNR report, our existing system is still considered viable. Our pond liners will likely need to be replaced, and as such, we will have to divert the pond and remove the sludge. This will be expensive.

NEW BUSINESS

New Furnace Bids. The board reviewed bids for installing a new furnace in the office. The project was awarded to L & S Heating on a motion by Commissioner Tryggestad and a second by Commissioner Jacobson.

2020 Operating Budget. Commissioner-Treasurer Tryggestad and Heidi met recently to go over numbers for the 2020 budget. Maintenance expenses, specifically repairs and replacements, are the biggest variable in our budget. Although the District may budget for a lift station upgrade annually or every other year (approximately \$60k), unexpected emergency repairs such as replacing motors, pumps and check valves can substantially impact our maintenance budget numbers. In terms of priorities, finishing the repairs to Lift Station #12 (Eagle Crest) is key, as that should keep this station maintenance free for some time. An upgrade to Lift Station #12A should be our next priority, as well as resealing some of our lift stations.

Commissioner-Treasurer Tryggestad recommended to the board that we increase user fees by \$35 this year in order to cover our ongoing operating and equipment maintenance costs. The Sanitary District rarely increases fees; and with the system getting older, it is appropriate to increase fees this year to cover anticipated costs. A motion was made by Commissioner-Treasurer Tryggestad to increase user fees by \$35. Seconded by Commissioner Badman and unanimously passed. It should be noted that this increase affects user fees only.

Commissioner Badman moved to adjourn and move into closed session at 8:10. Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and passed. Our next Sanitary District meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the District office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Erspamer, Recording Secretary