

# LAKE WAPOGASSET & BEAR TRAP LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT

## MEETING MINUTES, September 14, 2020

The September meeting of the LWBT Sanitary District was called to order by President Erspamer at 7:00 p.m. 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 and Heidi Erspamer.

Guest present: Marty Noonan, Lake Association President, Barry Eklund, and Becky Elbing (via Facetime).

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as distributed on a motion by Commissioner Jacobson and a second by Commissioner Badman. Motion passed. Publication of the open meeting notices were acknowledged.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Income for the month of August was \$30,094 and expenses were \$38,785. Net income was -\$8,690. A question was asked regarding preventative maintenance fees. Heidi clarified that the August fees posted were related to our annual cleaning and these expenses are in line with our budget expectations.

### **OPERATIONS REPORT: Office**

Heidi received final installation inspection approval for the South Shore Development extension from Engineer Les Mateffy. We are still waiting for Mr. Mateffy to approve the revised easements and once he does so, all deliverables will be in place and the development can be officially conveyed to the Sanitary District. Final statements were mailed to customers whose annual sewer fees are in arrears. A letter was also included which informed these customers that their account balance will be turned over to the Township for inclusion on the tax rolls if payment is not received by Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>. Heidi submitted the Sanitary District column for the final Lake Scene publication of the season. She announced her retirement as Office Manager in the article and since then she has received many best wishes from lake residents on her upcoming retirement. Lake Association President, Marty Noonan, thanked Heidi for her service and presented her with a gift certificate to Waterside on behalf of the Lake Association.

### **OPERATIONS REPORT: Maintenance**

Neil provided the board with a written maintenance report, which he also verbally summarized. He reported that the Pond Study is currently in progress (began 9/1) and we will keep in contact with Engineer Mateffy as the study progresses. Tri-State installed a new VFD for pump #1 in Lift Station #13 (Rumpca Drive). Tri-State also installed a rental pump in Lift Station #3 while a motor is being repaired. Our annual inspection by R & R Cleaning focused this year on the line going into Lift Station #16 and Station #15. Some necessary repairs were identified and R & R will return later this fall to fix these issues. Neil also reported that we identified a company that can seal inside our wet wells. We have requested a bid from them.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Harvester. Barry Eklund asked for clarification on property owners' 2021 harvester assessment; as he has been asked about this by lake residents. It was recommended that Commissioner-President address this in his annual letter. Mr. Eklund also asked if we have given any thought to purchasing a barge to facilitate the harvesting process. Commissioner Badman, who oversees our harvesting, was not sure that a barge would be of much benefit to us, as it would add more maintenance and also require additional staff to operate. He noted that each harvesting season is different; and while in some years a barge might benefit us, in other years it wouldn't be worth it. One thought would be to look into the

possibility of renting a barge in order to try it out. Mr. Eklund also asked about cutting a navigational channel up the Balsam Branch. The board responded that they are reluctant to take on the role of cutting navigational channels, as our purpose for harvesting is to remove as much phosphorus from the lakes as possible by focusing on cutting Curly Leaf Pondweed, per our permit. Also, our DNR harvesting permit does not allow us to go into shallow areas. The board's position, however, doesn't preclude property owners from working directly with the DNR to obtain their own permit and make their own plans for navigational cutting.

Lift Station #9 Upgrade. The board reviewed bids submitted for our Lift Station #9 upgrade. Commissioner-Treasurer Tryggestad made a motion to accept the combined bid from Tri-State (control panel only) and Total Control (rest of lift station). Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and passed. Staff will notify these vendors.

CMAR DNR Response: Heidi reported that the DNR was very positive when replying to our responses on our annual CMAR report card.

DNR Grant Update and Project Funding. Lake Association President, Marty Noonan, appeared before the board to confirm the Lake Association's support for the upcoming Aquatic Plant Management Plan revision. In addition to offering volunteer support, he also presented the Sanitary District with a check for \$1,000 from the Lake Association to help with costs of the project. Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental, is also writing a grant for DNR for project funding.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Elbing Outlot Easement Questions. Becky Elbing approached the board with questions related to the easement on her outlot and the access the Sanitary District uses to reach the lift station for repairs. Commissioner-President Erspamer noted that Ms. Elbing raised some fair issues. According to the map, our easement is equally on Elbing's lot and her neighbor's lot. Commissioner Erspamer also added that we leave it up to our maintenance staff to use the best (least invasive) access. The only option to resolve Ms. Elbing's issue would be to cross both front yards for access. It seems that this would be more invasive and would not be in either parties' best interest. Ms. Elbing agreed that crossing her front yard and her neighbor's front yard would be a less desirable alternative. The board agreed to give Ms. Elbing advance notice before entering her property for non-emergency repairs and they also agreed to leave the work site cleaned-up. Commissioner Badman suggested that the driving mats we recently purchased should be used in these situations.

Commissioner Badman moved to adjourn at 7:55, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson and passed. Our next Sanitary District meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the District office.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Erspamer, Recording Secretary