**SAWYER LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT**

**MONTHLY COMMISSIONERS’ MEETING**

**March 18, 2021**

Present: Steve Chmielecki, Rich Bakos, Dave Leboeuf, Rich Adams, and Bill Bakos

Meeting came to order at 6:00 PM. The minutes from the February 18, 2021, meeting read, accepted and seconded.

* Dam: Not much going on at the dam. Some of the boards have fallen off the flashboards. They are only wired on and can’t be put on with clamps. I’m guessing the wires are rotted. Bob Carter is coming out in a few days to measure the pin diameters so they can work on some design changes if necessary. I will probably start putting in boards the end of this month.
* Beaches: We will have to table the rules. The town selectmen have said they would like to speak with us. We won’t discuss them any further until we speak with them. I’m sure Bob will be raking the beaches. We have one tree that has to be ground out but we have plenty of time for that. Dave mentioned that there is a culvert on Beach 2 that needs to be replaced. We have budgeted for the new culverts in next years budget.
* Roads: We are also tabling the road rules until we speak with the selectmen. Steve and Bob did some plowing and sanding. There is sand left over. We both had sand left over from last year and got the same amount for this year. We put more sand down but still didn’t use it all so were in good condition with sand. With the snow melting, the branches from the ice storm and the three-foot snow storm we had are rearing their ugly heads. We will be going around chipping the branches. When Eversource was cutting the trees that took down lines, they threw them in the ditches. We will clean the ditches out first and then go after the bigger stuff. With the thaw the roads are muddy. Steve has ordered 1 ½” stone. When it gets bad enough, we will start dumping stone. That is about all we can do until they dry up. The places we put stone in last year aren’t as bad this year. Rich Adams added that the three commissioners went to a Selectmen’s meeting. He mentioned that the town had a study done on all the roads in the town and measured the culverts. We asked when the study would be done. They said it was in but they haven’t gone over it yet. We will be after the town to get the road fixed.

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* Treasurer’s Report: Year-to-date we’ve spent almost $15,000, $11,000 of it on roads.

Mr. Bakos put together a packet for the Annual Meeting. The first page is the 2020 budget by line item and the proposed budget for 2021. He did the reconciliation of the cash balance which gets us to $198,005 undesignated balance at the end of the year. Rich did an average of the SLVD tax rates over the last ten years and this year’s proposal is the highest. The dam bond account balance as of 12-31-20 is $75,000. We have a payment due in August of $15,000. The balance for this year is $60,000 we owe on the dam. We have six years left on the bond, that’s $10,000 a year. The interest on the bond is going to be down about $5,000 a year.

Mr. Bakos then went over the Warrants for 2021, and explained the tax implication for each Article. If the Articles are voted for the Operating Budget will be $131,523, which would be a new tax rate of $2.44.

Mr. Bakos then went over the Vendor List for 2020.

Operating Account: $ 5,825.49

Dam Account $174,483.76

The Treasurer’s Report was accepted and seconded.

* Open Forum: A question was asked why everyone couldn’t just put in $20 instead of going against your taxes? Rich Bakos explained that is how it is done. He understood and stated it might not be fair, but that is how taxes are done.

Right now in the United States ten percent of the taxpayers pay 70 percent of the taxes. Also it was stated that it would be impossible to get everyone to kick in their share. That is why it is a Warrant Article. If these Articles are not wanted it can be voted down.

A question was brought up about the Rules for the beaches the district had been going over. This person wanted to know if we new why the selectmen wanted to speak with us first? Steve said he didn’t know.

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Steve saw a fisherman parked on Beach 5. He told him it was a private beach and he couldn’t fish here. The man gave him a hard time so he called the police. The police said he could fish there. That is one of reasons we started looking into rules. When I spoke with the town administration they said they would help us but it had to go through legal council first.

Rich Adams mentioned that he got call from the head of the NH Dams. Homeland Security is going to be accepting grants for High Hazzard Dams. We are waiting for a plan up-date from NH Dams.

A questions was brought up about some of the projects mentioned for next year in the minutes from the last meeting. She wanted to know if they would be talked about? She also had a question about some of the houses with all the trash around them. Was anything being done about them?

About three years ago the District had a petition with many signatures presented to the town, with specifics of some of the worse properties. The town said you are allowed to have two unregistered cars on your property or the equivalent of. Basically they wouldn’t enforce it. It is up to the town to enforce it. We’ve sent registered letters that we know they received. We brought it up a few months ago and, of course, now there are all new people and they disavow any knowledge of it.

A gentlemen brought up that we all could file an abatement because these places lower taxes. It was said that if everyone went to the town hall and complained to the Health Officer it might help.

There was much discussion on the what we as a district can do and what is the responsibility of the town.

The trash problem on some properties was brought up again. Why couldn’t we have a campaign to bring the problem of businesses in the districts, especially those with a lot of trash on their property, to the Zoning Board? It was stated it should go to the Planning Board not the Zoning Board. Steve stated that they have been to both meetings with this problem and have been brushed off each time. Steve brought up the example of a person wanting to put a shed on one of the trailer lots. Steve and Rich Adams went and spoke against it saying this is not what their constituents want. They let the shed be built and now there are things piled against it and this has been there all winter.

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Why couldn’t we start at the lower levels and work our way up to the Selectmen? The Commissioners said to come up with a plan it would be very helpful to us.

A new person to the lake wanted to know how to find out about the meetings at the lake. She was told it is posted on the Sawyer Lake Page on the town web site. Someone mentioned the Sawyer Lake Facebook Page. Many people spoke up that all that’s on it is people complaining constantly. It was originally started as a fun page.

A question was asked about how we were going to fit everyone in the District Building for the annual meeting. Rich Adams said it is being held at the town hall upstairs. It is noted on the Annual Meeting signs.

It was noted how nice it was that so many people are coming to the monthly meetings. It’s nice to have input. Also thanks were given to Steve and Bob for a great job on the roads this winter.

A question was asked about the town web site. Steve told her how long the terms were for each position. What had to be done to run for an office. A name can be nominated and seconded by any registered voter.

A question asked about a piece of cement at the end of the jetty on Beach 5. Was it going to be removed? Basically we cannot because we have no rules. We will probably take it out when we rake the beaches. We will tell him he shouldn’t dig up the beach person to person, and hopefully that’s it. We do have rules that are posted on the beaches that are mandated by the insurance company.

It was brought up how many people are up staying at the lake now because of COVID. If you want to know more of the rules you have to look them up. If you want change, you as voters, have to be proactive.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. This was accepted and seconded.

Paula Adams

Clerk