

Village District of Eastman
Budget Meeting, December 13, 2017

In attendance: Commissioner Robert Parker, Commissioner Duncan Wood, Commissioner Karla Karash, Deputy Treasurer Bill Samuels (at 9:20), Business Manager Amy Lewis, and Operations Manager Tim Hicks.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 by Commissioner Parker.

Meeting dates for 2018 budgeting were set as follows:

- WWAC: January 9, 10AM
- Budget Hearing #1: February 28, 7PM
- Budget Hearing #2: March 8, 7PM if needed
- Annual Meeting: April 5, 7PM

Groundwater monitoring well sample results were reviewed; the second round of testing was completed in November. OM Hicks will confirm the results with the lab and DES.

Water

The current water usage rates for precinct one were reviewed, with a comparison against a potential increase of percentage vs. flat rate. Any adjustment to the commercial/non-precinct rates have yet to be determined.

We are waiting for proposals for the repairs to the water treatment plant roof, the lean-to for the garage, and insulating the upstairs of the office building.

Property taxes to Springfield: an abatement application will be started for reimbursement of July taxes paid, as the town assessed the building as a non-municipal property.

Capital reserve funding: monies are being set aside for well exploration, to prepare for any engineering necessary to determine if a fourth water source is available at the wellfield. Additionally, the possibility of installing a holding tank at the treatment plant was discussed; this would provide water for the backwash procedure rather than pull off of the system. OM Hicks will initiate talks with Tata & Howard about this.

Revenues for the potable water will be discussed in more depth at the next board meeting.

Wastewater

The three original capital funds will be closed, with any remaining funds transferring to the General Upgrades account.

The final Underwood Engineering system report is due, with an updated suggested capital improvement plan. Any expenses will be factored into the wastewater budget. The focus will be on the headworks building and the aeration lagoons.

The sludge tests on the lagoons were favorable; the average depth is 8-10', with accumulated sludge of 1 – 1-1/2'.

Other

The budget presentation will address the iron/filter issues, Longwood Drive main replacement, and open house among other topics. Commissioner Parker and BM Lewis will work on a statement to include with the Annual Report.

Clearwater Drive solar: the PPA from Norwich Technologies has been sent to counsel; we are waiting for comments/review. Treasurer Wright had expressed concern regarding the virtual metering process, as the array would be for the wastewater division, with the Snow Hill meter, and possibly other potable account meters, attached to it. Commissioner Wood said that the billing would remain the same, and any credit received for power would be applied to the appropriate division by the office.

Commissioner Karash shared that the Eastman Lakes and Streams Committee was involved in a project regarding the watersheds, and researching potential grants through the state for improvements to those watersheds - the VDE would be able to participate in such funding if the Bog Brook watershed and Eastman Lake watershed overlapped.

With nothing further, the meeting closed at 11:20AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Lewis
Business Manager
Village District of Eastman

James W. Wood 12/20/17

Karla H. Karash 12/20/17

Robert Parker 12/20/17