

# Lower Beech Pond Village District

## Village District Annual Meeting

Agenda & Minutes for June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The annual meeting was held at the Tufonboro Townhouse

Start time: 6:00 p.m. End time: 6:50 p.m.

### Introduction

- As people entered, everyone was checked in and registered voters signed in. Registered voters also received voting cards.
- There were 23 people in attendance, 17 of which were registered voters.
- Commissioner Stan Janeczko welcomed the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ARTICLE 1:

To re-elect one Commissioner; a Moderator, Clerk, Auditor and Treasurer for the ensuing year.

- Moderator for a 1-year term-** A motion was made and seconded to nominate Dave Smith. The residents voted, unanimously, to elect Dave Smith as moderator for a 1-year term. At this point, Dave joined the Commissioners in front and proceeded to moderate the meeting.
- Commissioner for a 3-year term-** A motion was made to nominate Lauren Hadley. Also, Doug Barker nominated himself for this position. The decision as to who was going to hold the commissioners seat for the next 3 years was done by secret ballot. The majority of the votes went to Lauren Hadley .
- Clerk for a 1- year term.** A motion was made and seconded to nominate Sarah Christian. The residents voted, unanimously, to elect Sarah Christian as clerk for a 1-year term.
- Treasurer for a 1-year term.** A motion was made and seconded to nominate Joanne Crowe. The residents voted, unanimously, to elect Joanne Crowe for a 1-year term.
- Auditor for a 1-year term.** A motion was made and seconded to nominate Barbara Landwehr. The residents voted, unanimously, to elect Barbara Landwehr for a 1-year term.

#### ◆ Tim Christian gave an Explanation/Review with questions before voting on Articles 2-5

- We have hired the engineering company (HTE Northeast) to design a new earthen dam so that we will meet the requirements of the DES (Dept. of Environmental Services). At this point, we are still waiting for the official design so that we can get quotes to build the new earthen dam. We have been given a number of \$220,000 for a similar project, similar in size. We have been told that the design will be done by the end of this month.
- We hope to begin this project mid to late August 2016 and it will last approximately 6 weeks. HTE Northeast recommends that this is the best/driest time of year.
- When the project begins, we estimate the water level to drop approximately 5 feet. To put this into context, every year our lake is dropped 18 inches in the fall to protect from ice/ shoreline erosion and even more (3 feet) every 5 years for residents to do maintenance.

- The commissioners did a 'walk through' downstream hazard evaluation last summer with Eric Teale of HTE Northeast and Steve Doyon of the DES (Dept. of Environmental Services). During this evaluation, we took a look at the Donovan (Jane) residence. There is a 30 foot stone dam there and if our dam were to breach, it would potentially cause that dam to fail. Also, there is a smaller dam at the Litwhiler (Thurley) property on Tibbetts Rd. The DES has decided that this dam poses no potential threat.
- A resident asked if we are responsible for the folks downstream. If our dam were to breach, we are responsible. Rebuilding our dam to meet the requirements of the DES and continuing to maintain our operation plan will limit our liability as much as possible until some sort of liability insurance can be put in place.
- We plan to continue to appropriate a smaller amount of money every year after this project is complete so that we can build up the funds to complete necessary annual maintenance, such as mowing the vegetation on the new earthen dam.
- There was concern over the Landwehr (Barbara) property and how her driveway and bridge will be impacted by the project, as her property is very near the dam. We assured her that whomever we hire to do the excavation work would evaluate the situation and do what is necessary to preserve her driveway.
  - ◆ Commissioner Stan Janeczko explained an error in taxation for the town of Tufonboro. This past winter, in the December tax bill, everyone in Tufonboro was taxed \$0.90 per \$1,000 on evaluated tax value to cover the cost of the \$32,000 approval that we greatly appreciate you voting for last June. This spring, in the June tax bill, Tufonboro LBPVD members were prematurely taxed \$0.45 per \$1,000. If we vote to approve Article 2 tonight, you will only be taxed \$0.45 per \$1,000 next December, due to the premature taxation by the town of Tufonboro.

## **ARTICLE 2:**

To see if the District will vote to continue to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000, coming from general taxation, to fund the 2015 operating budget.  
(Majority vote required)

Doug Barker requested an amendment to Article 2- to state what the \$32,000 is for.

Once amended, Article 2 says:

**To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,000, in anticipation of the upcoming expense of the earthen portion of the dam, coming from general taxation.**

The majority voted to support this article.

### **ARTICLE 3:**

To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$500, coming from unreserved fund balance, to fund the 2015 operating budget.

(Majority vote required)

This included \$400 for annual dam fees and \$100 for unanticipated operating expenses. Our treasurer, Joanne Crowe reported that our account balance as of 6/12/15 is \$56,286. 88.

The majority voted to support this article.

### **ARTICLE 4:**

To see if the District will vote to take out a loan to pay for the necessary dam work.

(Majority vote required)

Commissioner Stan Janeczko made a motion to table this Article until the next meeting where a vote could be taken to guarantee that the sum of \$32,000 will continue to be appropriated through the taxation until the loan has been satisfied.

A resident asked about the possibility of a longer loan- maybe 10 or 15 years to spread it out, to take some of the burden of this project off the people of LBPVD. The committee members agreed that this was a good idea to look into.

The majority voted to support this article.

### **ARTICLE 5:**

To see if the district is willing to continue with the Annual Meeting after May 1.

(Majority vote required)

We plan on meeting on a Friday again next year- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in June.

The majority voted to support this article.

With no further business to discuss, Dave Smith adjourned the meeting.

#### **Commissioners:**

*Tim Christian*

*Stan Janeczko*

*Laureen Hadley*

Our audit report is always available for viewing, should you care to see it from Barbara Landwehr, our auditor. Just let me know. Also, once we receive the engineering report, I will share it electronically.

Thanks for your continued support!

Sarah Christian  
LBPVD Clerk