



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes February 20, 2021 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Rod Preble, Gary Schneider (teleconference), Andy Wilhoit, Dave Mariani (teleconference), Dale Ulbrich (teleconference)

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus, Recorder (teleconference)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

- Rod motioned to approve the agenda, Andy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

- December minutes - Dave motioned to approve the December Meeting Minutes, Gary seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider - Gary presented the December Treasurer's report. Andy motioned to approve the December Financial Report, Dale seconded, all approved. Motion carried. 2020 had excess funds. Tom asked the board if they agree it would be agreeable to use that money towards the 2022 budget to reduce taxpayer money. Rod motioned to use excess funds towards 2022 budget to reduce the taxpayer levee. Andy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

- Financials / Schneider - Gary presented the January Treasurer's report. Andy motioned to approve the January Financial Report, Dale seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
- Gary did some research into boat patrol insurance. No one wants to underwrite it. Gary checked with the village to see how they insured it, and they recommended a company who will cover it. Gary also discovered we do not have Worker's Comp insurance. Gary did research on this as well. Spectrum Insurance gave a quote for auto, board, liability, storage shed and workers comp. Annual cost would be \$5303.00. Currently we are paying over \$7900.00 and it does not provide workers compensation. Board thought this is a material value and we will move insurance.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
 - Alum treatment – Andy will connect with Bill James and Cheryl Clemmens this month. Resolutions for the second treatment in 2022 will go to the annual meeting. We have a bid for \$383,000 for the next treatment. The most recent report says we improved water quality by 50%
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - Nothing to report

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - Nothing to report
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Preble
 - We are working on updating our 5 year APM (Aquatic Plant Management) plan. We will need to form a volunteer citizens committee to meet to review it beginning in May. It is in draft form and will be put out to the Commissioners for comments
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - Nothing to report

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- No Wake Zone Marina / Schneider
 - The village supports creating a no wake zone by the marina. It needs to have a public comment period and this will happen over the summer
- Water patrol / Kelly / Preble
 - Rod sent out a spreadsheet with a draft budget for water patrol. We do need to add a cell phone and number because personal cell numbers cannot be used. Tom thanked Rod for all the work he put in to get this information. The proposed budget is about \$9,200.00 and would be reimbursed at about 75% through a grant. The Homeowner's Association will fund the difference annually. We also estimate a one-time legal cost of about \$5,000.00 to get this established. This will also be sent to the Homeowner's Association to see how much of this they will cover
 - We need to figure out what we want to call it. Rod recommended "Balsam Lake Water Patrol"

- Tom asked if any Commissioners have any issues with us moving forward with this project. Everyone supported this. Tom noted this will be included in this year’s budget, but that it will be a pass-thru with no additional costs to the Balsam Lake Protection District. We may have a little bit of increased payroll expense. The budget is being created with 160 hours on the water which is a 60% increase over earlier patrol hours
- Tom noted there may be a resolution passed around on the Boat Patrol before the March meeting. He asked that if people get one, they respond promptly
- Polk County watershed project / Ulbrich
 - Dale has gone through the last 3 long range plans to understand what the goals and recommendations are, to determine what to plan going forward. He would like to start to identify what new projects to plan moving forward and to consider how to fund them. He has summarized them into one document and has sent it out to the Commissioners. For items recommended, he has looked at which things have been done already and which projects make sense to consider going forward. This is a good learning experience for both the constituents, as well as for the board. In the next meeting, we could use this feedback and the document as a planning exercise

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Studies and Reports posted to web site
 - Tom thanked everyone for submitting the studies and reports. Julie has updated the website. Dave asked if anyone has any additional studies or reports, that they send them to him and he will get them published

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - Well number 3 has been shut down. The village is having some issues with the Balsam Lake Hotel who are renting apartments. The hotel has now been shut down and is for sale
- County / Mariani
 - The sheriff’s Office has hired a full time Recreation Officer. Balsam Lake will get the lion’s share of this attention and he will also be spending time on the lake. This will be a nice supplement to our boat patrol
 - A couple of projects are happening on the lake right now. It was noted that the large place on the north shore of Little Balsam Lake is near the rice beds. Dale and Dave have done some exploring on dredging to determine whether to move forward or drop it completely

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Planning for future projects/Ulbrich

14) ADJOURN:

- Andy motioned to adjourn, Rod seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:36 AM