

VALPARAISO LAKES AREA CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING: October 15, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Garmon, Thomas Kruse, Mickey Koehler
Nancy Satterlee, Don Kareiva, Rolando Chilian
Christian Anderson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

CONSULTANT PRESENT: Dave Hollenbeck, Dale Brewer, Bob Minarich, Ken Jones,
Brent Wagner, Ed Spanopoulos

Audience: Tom Banaszak, Walt Breitinger, John and Tammy Wendland,

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Garmon at 6:00 pm.

Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Rolando. Motion carried 7-0.

Financial Report.

Nancy gave her report on the financial reports and the claim docket. Nancy made the motion to accept the claims, and approve the financial reports and reviewed the CCIF report, Don seconded it. Motion carried 7-0.

Nancy then moved to adopt the resolution of appropriation budget, tax rate and levy for the general fund and the Cumulative Capital Improvement fund for 2016. Dave then reported on the next steps. Tom seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0.

Ed Spanopoulos was given the floor for a public hearing concerning the LARE grants for the future. A survey was also given out at that time. This year the DNR allowed us to change the chemical from 2,4 D to Triclophr. In August, a plant survey was done and no milfoil was found on Flint. Ed explained that Flint was very clear and the curly leaf pondweed went crazy. It is an invasive. The DNR may fund for this down the road. If the District wishes to tackle it next year the DNR will allow a 10 acre treatment but we would have to do it on our own and the DNR will look at our results. Long Lake is a management lake and the DNR only allows 50/50 for grants. This is due to the water drawn by homeowners and not allowing a full lake treatment.

Opened to audience: How does the program work? Ed answered with initial survey, and treatment and a tier 2 survey in August to see effectiveness. Walt asked for the name of the biologist and why did he object. Ed explained that the DNR is concerned about fewer native species. Tom talked about the chemicals and the clarity.

Bob closed the public hearing portion and then called on Tammy Wendland.

5209 Garden Gateway. New customer with high water bill. Called Conservancy and they came out and checked toilets and did a walk around. The meter was indicating usage. Concerned about a possible leak under the slab. Plumber came out and found nothing. Water softener guy could find nothing. The meter was changed with no changes in flow movement. Irrigation system was shut off and only manually turned on.

An expert was called in. A pressure check was done and found no leaks. He referred to a pressure problem with expansion tanks and it causes an erroneous meter reading. A double check valve will solve the problem. She came into the office and Bob M. stated that the water was used and could not give credit for that. She then purchased a yoke to separate the sprinkling meter from the rest of the house usage.

Next she explained to the Board what a meter yoke looked like and the double check valve that was attached to it that she purchased from the Utility. She then went into an internet search she had done from American Water Works about check valves and expansion tanks.

She provided a handout about expansion tanks to the Board and explained that the expert said the water meter was clicking two forward and only one back.

Bob handed the issue to Rolando who gave it back to Bob M.

Bob M. then described the measures he had followed such as taking daily readings before the check valve and after. A difference of 3 cubic feet per day from August's and September's readings. Bob M. explained that meters will run backwards and reported that Neptune meters verified that. Historically, a high usage (500 cubic feet) was believed to happen when a sprinkler was used. Average bills occurred when the sprinklers did not run.

Tammy Wendland still contended that it was the meter and not the usage from the sprinklers.

Mickey asked what dollar amount they were looking for. (Background noise covered what they said.) Later \$430 was brought up again. Bob offered \$113.38 in rebate due to sprinkling.

Tammy Wendland asked where they could go from here. Bob replied an attorney.

Ken Jones was acknowledged. His concern for the Long Lake extension was whether to bored under the road or acquire easements in the very narrow right of way. Each homeowner would need to cut into the road to tie in. If easements are acquired then there are no road cuts, less chance of bumping into other utilities. Dave mentioned that donated easements must be appraised. If any landowner disagrees it could take well over a year to obtain the easement. It was agreed that the best solution is installing the forced main under the road.

A short discussion about a draft (non existent letter) from the health department as to whether it would be helpful or threatened.

Brent Wagner was acknowledged. He talked about the committee meeting with its changes and modifications to the office. Next step is to get the zoning changed for the Button property. Plan commission needs to approve plan then goes to the County Commissioners for another public hearing. Once we get permit we can proceed with bidding.

The second maintenance structure (pole barn) can be more expedited. Christian brought up the set back issues but it does not appear to need any variances. Brent needs to get together with Bob Thompson to speed it up. There will probably be a need for a state permit.

Rolando moved to approve Brent's work and for Dave to start the zoning work. Christian seconded it. Motion carried 7-0.

Another motion by Rolando and seconded by Tom for Dave and Brent to work with the Plan Commission to get the permit for the second maintenance structure. Motion carried 7-0

Bob then moved to approve Brent to go ahead with the architectural drawings. Tom seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

General Manager's report.

Groceland water main. Final grading done and ready to disconnect old main.

Leisure water main. Main is in. *Services in, 9 long and 5 short. Thanks to H&G Construction for the free use of a mole to install the services.*

Island Road lift station by-pass materials are in this morning.

Dish Restaurant sewers have been check and functioning well.

New pricing coming in. Morton around \$40,000. FBI not in, Michiaels not in.

New prices for El-Naggar individual costs. \$17,000+

Flushing finished.

City backflow testing done. Copper/lead testing finished, homeowners notified.

Additional chlorine testing completed and sent in.

Matt's field report.

35 locates, 1 meter replacements, 20 delinquents and 4 seasonals.

Samples good.

Bob asked about our next wish list for water projects. Waiola or Cardinal.

Accounts Receivable

Nothing

Personnel Committee Thomas Kruse

Met Wednesday. Recommendations

Raises:

Minarich to \$73,000

Laura increase \$17/hr.

Matt to \$21.88/hr

Dale to \$27.35/hr

David – no change

Performance Awards:

Minarich \$1000

Laura \$1000

Matt \$750

Dale \$2000

David – no change

Tom made to approve these changes Nancy seconded it. Motion carried 7-0.

Insurance Mickey Koehler

All employees who handled money or credit accounts must be bonded. This change will cost \$100 for the first two years. Workman's comp went down \$3500. Liability went up just a little bit. \$13,700 total. Mickey moved to accept Anton insurance for one more year. Christian seconded it. Motion carried 7-0.

Dale asked what the split should be. 1/3 with water/sewer/conservancy. Bob moved. Rolando seconded it. Motion carried 7-0.

The difference between \$1000 and \$500 deductible on our equipment is only \$69.00

Environmental Christian Anderson

Meeting coming up and he will notify all.

Public Relations Rolando Chilian

Committee discussed the Wendland issue. Another claim form 5115 Redwing Road from 29th of Sept. Leak was checked and water went out the window. Customer was late in presenting a letter to the Board. A \$580 credit to his sewer account.

It was calculated that half would work out to \$276.61 Don seconded, Rolando's motion. Motion carried 5-2.

Engineering Committee Bob Garmon

Short and long term planning Committee. Don Kareiva

Nothing beside what was already discussed. Don suggested the project is dead.

However, the Board had approved placing the main under the road. Misunderstanding from future customers for their increasing costs. Discussions about individual cost, annexations, number of possible connections. continue.

Attorney's report

October is nominating petition time for two directorships this year. Rolando and Mickey. 5 signatures on the nominating petition. Mickey's has been delivered to Dave.

Mickey and Walt went to the health dept. to request a letter to the Long Lake residents urging them to sign up.

Mrs. Wendland requested the expansion tank flyers to be returned to her.

Walt talked about the West Long Lake sewers letter from the health dept..

A lady whose name was not on the sign in sheet asked about the funds for the project helping everyone or just one and if the project will continue further north. Bob and Dave explained that there is not enough signing up.

Bob adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.

Attest:

Bob Minarich

General Manager

Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District

