**THE SAWYER LAKE VILLAGE DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Saturday, April 3, 2021**

**The Annual Meeting of the Sawyer Lake Village District was held on Saturday,**

**April 3, 2021, at 10:00 AM at the Gilmanton Town Hall, Gilmanton, County of Belknap, State of New Hampshire.**

**The Moderator, William Bakos, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The Moderator read the 2021 Annual Meeting Warrant, attached here to.**

**Steve Chmielecki, Commissioner, welcomed everyone to the 45th Annual Meeting of the Sawyer Lake District, which was established in 1975. He explained that the duties of the Commissioners are to Maintain the Dam, Maintain the Roads, and to take care of the Beaches and the Common Areas, ie, the area around the dam. Keep the beaches clean and raked. Steve grew up in Gilmanton and his school bus route went to Sawyer Lake and knew many kids from the lake area.**

**Steve talked about the Food Pantry his wife Stephanie and he started with a donation of $100. They realized that many people, especially some of the elderly, were have trouble getting some items, such as toilet paper. The Pantry was a success. When it was noted that it wasn’t needed any more it was closed. Many people made donations and ended up with just under $1,000. Many people donated items.**

**He mentioned the many generations of families that come to the lake. He told that he bought his father’s camp and it is now his home.**

**We ended the year with about $4,000 left in the budget. There were several severe rain storms that washout the roads. Two roads were severely washed out. The road that was paved by those that live on the road was washed out and because Bob Dow and he were busy with the roads they hired an outside contractor to fix it. There was also an infrastructure washout on Hemlock that needed immediate attention and this was also contracted out. These unexpected expenses cost $15,000.**

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**Bob Dow will talk about the future projects when he does his State of the Roads. Our new budget reflects the cost of these projects. The roads are in good shape.**

**Steve told the residents after three terms as a commissioner he would not be running again. His family and his business does not leave much time.**

**Bob Dow, Road Agent. The state of the roads are not in too bad of shape. The projects that Steve mentioned that need to be addressed are the drainage pipes at Beach 1 and Beach 2. The drainage pipe at Beach 1 and Hemlock Drive was put in years ago and is only ten inches wide and cannot handle the run off. The drainage pipe on Beach 2 runs from the town road to the lake. This pipe was put in about 50 years ago. It is made of concrete and is deteriorating. It has been patched by Bob and Steve many times and needs to be replaced.**

**Once the frost is out of the roads they will be graded to take out the ruts. Other than that they are in decent shape.**

**William Bakos, as a resident of the Lake, stated that he appreciated the work that is done on the roads.**

**Rich Adams, Dam Liaison with the State. Rich has put five boards in to bring up the level of the lake. The rest of the boards will depend on what any rain brings.**

**The State designed the latest up-grade of the lake in 2006-2008. We are now considered a “High Hazzard” dam. We are working with NH Dams to help us design how to bring the dam up-to-date. Bob Carter, from NH Dams, will help us with approval from the state. Rich received a call from the state saying that Home Security will be making grant money made available. He will get back to Rich when the funds become available. The cement wall will need to be replace eventually. Not now but maybe in ten years. It might be advisable to set up a Capital Fund Account for some of these up-grades. We are staying on top of things.**

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**Steve Chmielecki gave the up-date on the beaches. He stated they are wet and sandy! Bob will be raking the beaches before Memorial Day. The rafts and ropes will be put in. The rafts and ropes used will depend on the voting of Articles V and VI. MBL will be mowing the beaches again. At our next monthly meeting we will be deciding on whether they will be mowed four or six times. The cost of mowing has gone up.**

**Rich Bakos, Treasurer. Mr. Bakos went over the expenditures for last year.**

**The District was $4,000 under budget but over on roads. We were over for insurance because of the new calculations that were not expected. These calculations were based on the new assessments from the town. Roads we spent $62,000 against a budget of $56,000. When the budget is gone over you will see why the commissioners have gone up on the Road Budget. It seems every year there is an emergency. From microburst to rain washouts. We had budgeted $14,000 for the dam, but because we went over on the roads, some of that money was deferred to roads. We were under on beaches, but because of COVID we didn’t get to them.**

**In 2006 the District took a twenty-year bond to pay for the dam. We have been paying this off at about $15,000 per year plus interest. This year we paid $18,000 principal plus interest. We ended up 2020 with a cash balance of about $190,000. Because we ended the year with $4,000 left from the budget, we started this year with about $194,000. This money isn’t just sitting there it will be used against next year’s budget.**

**Mr. Bakos went over each of the line item on the new budget proposal. He explained how each of the amounts was reached. Executive is payment for the Committee Members, Clerk, Road Agent, Moderator and Auditor when appropriate. Financial is for items such as the Voter List. The Government Buildings is for the District Building which will need repairs to the front and back stairs. Insurance for the District. He explained how the amount for roads was reached. The amount for Dam repairs, the registration with the state, and to have the dam area mowed. Beach maintenance and any repairs.**

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**The Dam amount was explained we have a plan that was supposed to be spaced out five years at a cost of $40,000 for the evaluation. We are not quite half way through so we still owe $20,000. He explained the cost of registration; Also the cost of having the dam area mowed and cleared of any trees. This only includes minor repairs. The $4,000 for beaches includes the cost of raft repairs if the Article for new rafts doesn’t pass.**

**The Dam Note principal was $15,000 last year. It will be $10,000 the next six years. The interest is reduced. The Note will be paid off.**

**Mr. Bakos explained how the proposed budget will impact the tax rate. He explained how this was reached. Even though the tax rate went down the assessments in the town went up. Last year the Sawyer Lake tax assessment went up 25 percent. We now pay more than ten percent of the town taxes.**

**Based on the 2020 rates and averaged out over the years, the $1.90 tax rate is not out of line, even though this is the highest budget we’ve had.**

**When I came in as Treasurer, Bob was Chairman, and later joined by Steve and Rich, the District was about $200,000 in debt. This is the first year I can come to you and say we are now in the “black.” If the Dam Note is called tomorrow, we would have the money to pay it off. We also have a $15,000 overdraft provision so if there is an emergency the Commissioners’ can appropriate this money. He congratulated the Commissioners for getting us out of debt.**

**Mr. Bakos then went over the Warrant Articles and the tax impact they would have. He explained with the current budget of $106,823, the tax rate would be $1.98 per thousand. If all the Articles pass the tax rate would be $2.44 per thousand.**

**Mr. Bakos then explained the Vendor List. This showed exactly what was paid out and why.**

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**There was a question asked how Mr. Bakos came to the amount of the tax rate that he did. This person had gone to the town and had different amounts.**

**Mr. Bakos explained that he averages the assessment and the tax rate to get the amount that he did. This person still didn’t understand. The women attempted to provide Mr. Bakos with a copy of the document obtained from the Town of Gilmanton’s Tax Collector’s Office that listed the precinct fees for the last ten years. This documentation differed from what Mr. Bakos provided in the Budget handout. Mr. Bakos refused the document.**

**The next item on the agenda is to vote on the proposed Articles. The Moderator explained that eligible voters were handed a pink card. Those in favor of the Article will raise their cards. Then those not in favor of the Article will raise their cards.**

**A question was asked if there was any contingency for hazmat clean up from the Port-a-potties if they are upended. He explained this is the time to vote on the budget not the port-a-potties. He may bring this up when that Article is brought up for a vote. The Moderator asked if there were any questions about any of the line items on the budget. There being no question he asked for a vote.**

**Article II: The Moderator read Article II. To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $106,823.00, for general operations.**

**The Moderator made a motion to accept the sum of $106,823.00. The motion was seconded. The budget of $106,823.00 was passed.**

**Article III: The Moderator read Article III. To see if the District will vote to authorize the District Commissioners to incur debts for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes.**

**Motion made, duly seconded, to authorize the District Commissioners to incur debt for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes. Motion was carried unanimously to incur debt for temporary loans in anticipation of taxes.**

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**Article IV: To see if the District will vote to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, the sum of $15,000. This sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. Any appropriation left in the fund at the end of the year will lapse to the general fund.**

**Motion made and duly seconded, to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses that may arise, the sum of $15,000. Motion was carried unanimously to establish a contingency fund for the current year for unanticipated expenses.**

**Article V: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,000 for the purpose of obtaining new ropes and markers for the six beaches.**

**Motion made, duly seconded, to authorize the District Commissioners to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,000 for the purpose of obtaining new ropes and markers for the six beaches.**

**Article VI: To see is the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 for the purchase of six (6) new 10’ X 10’ aluminum rafts and ladders.**

**Motion made, duly seconded, to authorize the District to raise and appropriate the sum of $20,000 for the purpose of six (6) new 10’ X 10’ aluminum rafts and ladders. Motion was carried unanimously to raise the sum of $20,000 for the purchase of six (6) aluminum rafts and ladder.**

**Article VII: To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,700 for the rental of six (6) Porta-Potties, one for each of the beaches.**

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**The motion to authorize the District to raise and appropriate the sum of $2,700 for the rental of six (6) Porta-Potties, one for each beach failed unanimously. Articles V and VI passed unanimously.**

**Article I: To choose all necessary District Officers for the ensuing year.**

**Nominations were accepted for Claudia Ferber for Commissioner for a three-year term and duly seconded. Nominations were accepted for Thomas LeMien for Commissioner for a three-year term. There being no other nominations, the Moderator declared the nominations closed.**

**The Moderator declared nominations open for the office of Treasurer for a one-year term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Claudia Ferber for Treasurer for a one-year term. There being no other nominations for Treasurer, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office of Treasurer closed.**

**The Moderator declared nominations open for the office of Clerk for a one-year term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Paula Adams for Clerk for a one-year term. Motion carried. There being no other nominations for Clerk, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office of Clerk closed.**

**The Moderator declared nominations open for the office of Moderator for a one-year term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate William Bakos for Moderator for a one-year term. Motion carried. There being no other nominations for Moderator, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office closed.**

**The Moderator declared nominations for the office of Auditor for a one-year term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Michael Griffin for Auditor for a one-year term. Motion carried. There being no other nominations for Auditor, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office closed.**

**The Moderator declared nominations open for the office of Road Agent for a one-year term. Motion made and duly seconded to nominate Bob Dow as Road Agent for a one-year term. Motion carried. There being no other nominations for Road Agent, the Moderator declared the nominations for the office closed.**

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**The Moderator declared that the Officers elected for the District for the ensuing year are as follows:**

**Commissioner for a Three-year term…………………..Thomas LeMien**

**Treasurer for a one-year term……………………………….Claudia Ferber**

**Clerk for a one-year term…………………………………………Paula Adams**

**Moderator for a one-year term………………………………William Bakos**

**Auditor for a one-year term…………………………………..Michael Griffin**

**Budget Representative to the Town……………………….Claudia Ferber**

**Road Agent…………………………………………………………………….Robert Dow**

**The Moderator read the new 2021 budget amount of $128,883.00 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $128,823.00, for the general District Operations.**

**The Moderator made a motion to accept the sum of $128,883.00. The motion was duly seconded. The Budget of $128.883.00 was passed unanimously.**

**Open Forum: The Moderator started discussion on the Redistricting of the Sawyer Lake Village District. The Moderator stated that after the discussion and questions, there would be a hand vote as to whether the District should continue with the redistricting.**

**The Moderator explained that the redistricting would be on Sawyer Lake Road. It was explained that if they became part of the district, their tax bill would contain the extra tax for the district.**

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**Mr. Leboeuf explained that many of the people who live on Sawyer Lake Road already use the beaches. With redistricting they would then be added to the District taxes. He also explained if the District votes against moving forward, that would be the end of discussion. If the district decided to move forward, it would go to the town and the town would send out a public hearing announcement for a vote.**

**Steve Chmielecki stated the lake is already full and the 68 acre parcel on Sawyer Lake Road was sold. If we redistrict Sawyer Lake Road he said where does it end. On the plus side, it would be nice to invite them to join. It must be hard to be next door and your neighbor can use the lake and you can’t.**

**William Bakos stated last summer he did ask non-residents to leave. He said they were polite and left with no problem. He stated they had four friends which included fourteen children. They had six kayaks in the beach area. He also said it’s not just letting the homeowner in it’s letting their company also plus any boats they would want to use. He said he would always ask non-residents to leave.**

**Richard Adams said he has been coming up to Sawyer Lake since 1958 and he likes the way the lake is now. He said if you let three families in we’re only getting $4000 out of it. Each one of these families will have a boat, kayaks, and jet skis.**

**Richard Bakos stated that if the boundaries were to be moved they would have to be contiguous. That means everyone would have to be involved. There are people on Sawyer Lake Road that already own property on the lake so they would not be interested in being involved. There is no eminent domain in redistricting. He has had people state they don’t want to be part of the district. The state said we would have to get legal counsel and this will be expensive.**

**The Moderator asked if there were any rules that the only boat launch is on Beach 5? It was stated that there is no rule. It might be good to note that the only beach launch is Beach 5.**

**A question about how much it would cost in legal fees. It was also stated that this person Googled Sawyer Lake and that a guide wrote: “It’s a nice lake with six small beaches. The people are nice and don’t mind sharing their lake.”**

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**The Moderator stated that we can’t stop what people write. Just like the people on Sawyer Lake Road. Some were told they have lake access, just not to Sawyer Lake. They would have access to Crystal Lake as we all do because that is the public lake for the town.**

**A couple that live on Sawyer Lake Road spoke how they love the area and would like access to the Lake and would like redistricting.**

**The motion for redistricting was unanimously voted down. This will not move forward.**

**Steve was thanked for his service to the community. Rich Bakos was also thanked.**

**Rich Adams spoke about how many years Bob Dow has been working tirelessly for the Lake. An appreciation award was presented to Mr. Dow in appreciation for all he has done for the Lake area.**

**The Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM. This was approved and seconded.**

**Paula Adams**

**Clerk**