

DALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

June 26, 2018

Present: Chair Jim Driscoll, Camillus Cachat, Michael Kubicki, Fire Chief Cahalan, Asst. Water Superintendent O'Bryan, Clerk Cheryl Cachat

Public: Ed Denham, Mark DeMaranville, Scott Shove, Richard Hall, Michael Viner, Elizabeth Newlands, Brian Hawthorne, Jacob Morris-Siegel

Jim Driscoll called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

General Business:

- Minutes
 - o Jim Driscoll made a motion to accept the minutes from April 24, 2018 as printed, Camillus Cachat seconded, approved unanimously
- Correspondence
 - o Letter from Jourdain Forest Management regarding a timber harvest of which the District is an abutter
 - o Mike Kubicki asked Ed Denham if there should be any concerns, boundary will be repainted and cutting area is outside of District boundary
 - o No concerns
- Annual update from Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) / Ed Denham
 - o Annual meeting with Conservation Restriction (CR) landowners
 - o Liz Newlands -Purpose of meeting to make sure understand requires CR management and landowners understand, process of CR forest management
 - o Jim Driscoll – only member still on Board that was part of signing the CR and he has a concern of timely manner, the key point person changing, good communication and fair turnaround times in documentation review
 - o Jacob Morris Siegel reviewed issues that occurred with last cutting plan
 - o Elizabeth – DFW is asking land owners/ foresters to help process in letting them have advance notice for upcoming year cutting plans
 - o Jacob – Reviews process Brian reviews forestry aspect, while Jacob & Liz oversee that meets CR
 - o Brian reminder that CR lands follow a more restrictive standards
 - o Liz – Guidelines for CR property
 - Collaborative real property investment and management of wildlife and plant life
 - CR - Follow forestry standards which are above and beyond normal standard gered to enhance and maintain property
 - CR should follow a 10year plan with annual meetings which will expedite process
 - o Brian – DFW recognizes that some of the restrictions will result in reduced income for the District, but they will work with the District to help find alternate
 - o Ed Denham after rereading CR document has questions
 - Believe the document makes no partnership in management of property
 - No clear decision path, who is the point of contact for what process?
 - o Liz clarified the local office roles in CR property and contacts
 - o Jacob & Liz ecologist and oversee land use
 - o Brian timber/cutting management

- Chief point of contact Jacob with cc: Liz
 - Ed looking for clarification of who controls land
 - DFW states District controls land with input from DFW, all must be within constraints of CR
 - District delays are attributed to retirement, new team oversight
 - Clarified reserved rights in CR
 - Right to timber harvest
 - Right for recreational use
 - Ed reviewed his procedure for forest cutting plan
 - Brian reviewed requirement for cutting plans and how to expedite the process for future filings Ex: wording for goals of tree stands
 - Ed questioned the delay in the approval of the Forest Management Plan
 - DFW staff input on what caused all the delays in the approval
 - At this time outstanding is the snowmobile trail map
 - Once received the “30 day clock” for approval will start
 - Suggestion to vote on all documentation at open meetings for clear record
 - Ed questioned past procedures of not being able to meet with Staff
 - DFW Staff stated they would meet at any time to review and update cutting plans
 - Staff member is now retired, current staff will not comment
 - Jim reviewed that the discussion has created an open dialogue
 - Mike asked about grant options to offset costs
 - DFW Staff will send the information for the District to review
 - State grant options
 - Private land forester that helps with private grant options
 - DFW will be preparing a Baseline Document this fiscal which is a requirement in the CR contract
- Energy Price Management Group
 - Request for District to act as host for solar project at 172 Peru Road, Hinsdale for 1mg
 - SREG II program ending, with new SMART program no host will be needed
 - Decision on Host opportunity is needed to submit paperwork to DEP
 - Cam questioned the liability of the District, told no liability
 - Mike questioned using SREG II and paying District when SMART would require no host, reply that even with payment for host it is financially beneficial to work under SREG II

Ambulance Report

- No report

Fire Department:

- Routine Maintenance being performed on trucks
- Working on purchase of capital projects for FY19

Water Department:

- Printed report from Asst. Superintendent attached to official minutes

Treasurer's Report:

- End of year cleanup for billing & collections
- Water billing approx. 100 outstanding
- Suggested an exit interview with J. Callahan
 - 3 Commissioner, schedule for Monday July 2 at 3:30 pm
 - Executive Session

Other New Business:

- Host Agreement
 - Cam in favor of signing
 - Mike unsure due no termination clause 20 year contract
 - Discussion regarding the liability of District
 - Clerk to confirm any tax consequences to the District (property, equipment)
 - Any rights to terminate
 - Would request a hold harmless clause in contract

- Jim Driscoll made a motion to send Dalton Fire District Forest Management Plan with snowmobile trail plan included to Division of Fisheries & Wildlife no later than Friday, June 29, 2018, Second Mike Kubicki, passed unanimously

Next meeting will be July 31, 2018 at 6:30pm

Jim Driscoll made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm, seconded by Mike Kubicki, passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Cachat
Treasurer/Clerk