

Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee
Minutes of February 3, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Those in attendance were Jimmy Smith, Barry Vanmeter, Jeff Stevens, Jason Croasdale, Ken Baker, Supervisor Shawn Graber, Director of Public Works Joe Wilder, Kevin Alderman, and 12 people in the audience. Michelle Springer was absent.

Jimmy called for approval/correction of the November 4, 2019 meeting minutes. Jeff made a motion to pass the minutes as written. Jason seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Manager's Report:

The staff cleared the stumps and debris from the area between the golf greens. The ground has been seeded and we will add it to our mowing duties during the summer months. It will be easier to maintain. We bought a used Motor Grader. The old Motor Grader was 26 years old and finally had enough. We have machined all the gravel roads that have houses and added stone where it needed to be. This should get us through the winter months. In the spring we plan to do all the gravel roads. The staff has continued to cut trees throughout Shawneeland. We currently have 35 trails that have dead trees. Any trees that are hanging out over the road or that could potentially cause problems we are taking those trees as well. The wood that we are cutting will be left on the right of way for citizens to take. We encourage the citizens to take the wood, anything left we will at some point go back and clean up. If there are any questions regarding the wood, call the office. We are cutting high limbs around intersections with the boom ax. Please use caution when encountering the boom ax. We will have flaggers in place. In the spring we will begin the Grader Patching process. There are quite a few trails that are scheduled, and we will continue as the weather permits throughout the spring and summer. The trout has been ordered for the Fishing Derby. We ordered 406 trout which is the same amount as last year. The lake level is on the rise. On January 23, 2020 it was at 137 inches down and today is was 111 inches down. We are not draining the lake. The last time we had the siphons on was June 11, 2019 and that was to only exercise the siphons. The lake does have a leak and with the dry weather the result is a low lake level.

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

The proposed budget is \$1,146,023. To cover the budget \$935,940 will come from the Sanitary District Fees and \$210,083 will come from the Reserve Fund. There is no Capital Request for the proposed budget. One of the biggest expenses is the Tar and Chip. We have not done Tar and Chip for 2 years. The budget is bare bones from what was presented to us and then to the Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee is proposing to increase the Improved Lot Fee by \$140. Joe Wilder spoke on the proposed increase fee. The Public Works Committee feels a concern that the Reserve Fund is decreasing. The Public Works Committee has adopted that fee increase as part of their report. The important thing to remember is that the Board of Supervisors must approve it. That will happen in March 2020. Joe Wilder touched on the point that Shawneeland runs solely on the Sanitary District Fees. If the Reserve Fund continues to drop there is no other account or savings to pay for things or emergencies. If Shawneeland runs out of money, there will have to be some type of bond or loan to

help run the Sanitary District. The County does not want that to happen. If you have a concern about the fee increase, then I would recommend you attend a Board of Supervisors budget meeting.

- How did the Public Works Committee come up with that number? At first it started out at \$300. The Public Works Committee feels that there is a deficit of what the budget is and what the revenues are. After discussion they decided to bring it down to \$140.
- There are residents that live on a limited fixed income. How can you expect them to pay? It is a matter of the board making the recommendation. The budget and the reserve must be enough so the responsibilities that are required of the Sanitary District be met.
- Was there a representative from Shawneeland at the Public Works Committee meeting? Yes
- During the meeting was there any discussion of budget cuts rather than raise the fee? No

Joe went over the process that whatever money is not used from the budget on June 30th goes back into the Reserve Fund. Frederick County is responsible for Shawneeland.

- The question was raised as to whether to cut personnel and cut back on services. Personnel makes up most of the budget. These conversations are hard to have because nobody wants to talk about people losing their jobs but at what point does it become unaffordable.

Supervisor Graber spoke about sharing a lot of the same concerns about the fee increasing. He spoke to Joe Wilder about giving him a budget that increases by \$75, \$100, \$120, \$140, and \$300. I believe that it is up to the community as to what they want for services. If you only want 4 people working for you instead of 6 people, then I would like to hear that. If you go from 6 people to 4 people, then that would cut \$100,000 from the budget. I would like to hear from the residents about what they would like to see happen. Another thing I would like for you to consider is that if you look at Lake Holiday and some of the others, they have a fee if you sell your home. This fee goes toward the Capital projects for the community. This would be a way to build up the Capital expenses. Another thing to consider would be to become an HOA rather than be a Sanitary District. At the end of the day you must look at what level of service does the community want and what are you willing to pay for these services. Supervisor Graber wants to hear from the community what they want so he can go back to the Public Works Committee and have some discussion.

- Have we received funds from being declared a state of emergency in the past? We submit the paperwork to Chester Lauck in Fire and Rescue. Then if we receive funds it would be distributed accordingly.
- Why do we need to have \$850 for Laundry & Housekeeping? It is for supplies to keep the office cleaned. Do we hire someone to do it? No, we clean the office, but you must buy products to do it. There is \$850 in there but if we only use \$50 of it then \$800 goes back into the Reserve Fund. The problem is that Kevin overbudgets and now the county wants to base our expenses on money that we are not spending. Another citizen tried to explain that when preparing the budget, you must have contingencies because if you run out then sometimes doing a transfer is more of a pain than proposing it initially.
- Do we contact the power company to cut trees that are in threat of falling on a power line? This would be at their expense. We do not cut trees that are in threat of falling on a power line. The power company maintains their own lines. If we something, then we contact the power company.
- It was recommended to increase the unimproved lots as well. This would help in reaching the \$10,000 mark for the county to do something regarding the delinquent lots.

New Business:

- Jimmy raised the idea of having subcommittees and doing activities like bingo or a car show. We could use activities to fund things. For example, it was brought up about having basketball hoops. I know in the past we had them, but they were vandalized. Maybe if we form a committee or some sort to have an activity to put towards it then it wouldn't affect the budget. This is just an idea. Another idea was to use this meeting room for a senior bingo night. These are just ideas and I welcome any of your ideas as well. If you have any ideas in writing or send through email that we could fall back on.

Open Forum:

- During the summer there are people with out of state tags in here fishing and swimming. They swim where you load/unload your boat. Isn't this a safety concern and a liability? In the past we have called the Sheriff's department.
- It was stated from a citizen that he does not want Shawneeland to become an HOA. He doesn't want to be told what to do with his property.
- Follow-up regarding the Impact Fee for builders. There are a lot of builders in here and they cause wear and tear on the roads. Kevin said that his understanding is that we cannot impose an Impact Fee. Supervisor Graber along with other board members have gone to Richmond to ask for the Impact Fees to be reinstated. Unfortunately, as county representatives they cannot legally do that.
- Is there a way we could work with the Sheriff's Department to have some type of tag that we put in the windshield to show that you live in Shawneeland? It would have to come from Supervisor Graber and Public Works as to what we can and cannot do. The person who has authority over the property has the say which is the Board of Supervisors. Without the line of authority there can be no enforcement. The signs are just deterrents.
- A citizen stated that she appreciates what the Sanitary District employees do in Shawneeland. She thanked the staff and said they do a good job and work hard. A lot of people don't give them credit. She said you can't make everybody happy.
- A citizen spoke on the possibility of becoming an HOA. It scares the living daylights out of her. You must hire your own people. There have been HOA's in the past that have not done very well. It will cost extra money to hire people when we already have the staff that does a good job. Who will monitor the HOA? Look at Wild Acres/Mountain Falls Park. What do they get for their money? Their roads are crap. I would rather pay knowing where it is going and who is collecting it versus the HOA. Our property values will go to crap with an HOA.
- Our crew of 6 guys do an awful lot. I would hate to see it go to 4 or 5 because you have people complaining that we are not getting our roads plowed fast enough as it is. These guys do a fantastic job. By cutting the crew you are going to lose in the long run.
- Would we consider getting a lesser amount of fish since the lake is so low? We will look at the lake level when it is time for the fish distribution.
- The leak from the lake is at 100 gallons per minute. It was at 130 gallons. Kevin stated the drop could be from the lake being so low. The amount of the leak normally stays steady.
- Follow-up on live streaming the meetings. We must get someone film it, then Jimmy will send the link to Karen Vacchio and she will upload it to the Frederick County Youtube channel.

- Ruth will be giving up the newsletter in March. Is there some other means that you will get information out to people? Jimmy responded with we have talked about putting the minutes on the county page. We will have to look further into it than what we already have established.
- It was asked that it be shared from Larry Clowser Webb that they will be having their Memorial Service at the Clowser House on Saturday, June 6, 2020 at 10am. They will be including the attendance of the French and Indian War Foundations Captain George Mercer's Company in uniform. They will be performing drills and reenactments following the service. Everyone is invited to attend, and the cost is free.

Jimmy thanked everyone for coming and encouraged the citizens to attend the Board of Supervisor meetings and to speak with Supervisor Graber regarding their concerns.

Jimmy adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.