

**Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee  
Special Budget Meeting**

**Minutes of May 18, 2020**

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

Those in attendance were Jimmy Smith, Barry Van Meter, Jeff Stevens, Jason Croasdale (by phone), Ken Baker, Kevin Alderman, Director of Public Works Joe Wilder, and Supervisor Shawn Graber. Michelle Springer was absent.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic social distancing guidelines residents were unable to sit in on the meeting but could wait outside till their turn to enter the building and speak on their concerns about the budget. There were 5 residents who spoke at the meeting.

**Open Forum:**

**Lynn and Brian Schmitt:**

**Brian:** Does not want a fee increase. Thinks there is a mismanagement of budget. Instead of sole sourcing work to single contractor, feels that Shawneeland, and/or the County should put the work out for "Bid".

**Lynn:** Does not want a fee increase. Thinks Shawneeland/County should impose a \$2K selling fee on every home sold, which would go towards the budget. Thinks that Shawneeland should have input on future budgets. Feels that residents want to know what the maintenance crew does.

**Gregory Kerns:** Resident since 1997. Owns two houses and two additional lots in Shawneeland. Has seen a lot of improvements over the years he has lived here and thinks that the Shawneeland grounds are in the best shape ever. He supports the hard work of the maintenance crew and approves of the way Kevin manages things. The crew keeps the roads and public areas in great shape, and he has not seen any inappropriate acts from any of them. Believes that budget cuts will cost Shawneeland overall because appearance and condition of the community will be degraded.

**George Bishop:** Resident for 6 years. Thinks maintenance crews are doing a good job. Feels that speeding is an issue, with people driving 50mph in a 25mph zone. Need to put a stop to this.

**Jim Martin:** Heard about possible cuts to staff and does not support this. Fully supports what the crew is doing and thinks they do an excellent job. Doesn't understand what exactly a Sanitary District is.

## **Committee Members:**

**Ken Baker:** We need to keep the tar and chip program we should continue this year.

**Jason Croasdale:** Budget concerns moving forward:

- Transparency & following the chain of command during budget process
- generating an explainable budget with supporting documents (line by line) from SSD Manager
- balanced budget. We can't keep deficit spending. This concern alone had me considering a different vote.

**Barry Van Meter:** Want to watch budget through the year since the tax revenue is unsure of on the second half of this year.

**Jimmy Smith:** Proactive on things now to prevent higher cost in the future. We as a committee along with help from Kevin Aldermen and Joe Wilder will be working on things to educate the information to the citizens with total transparency.

## **Emails from Residents:**

**Rhonda Sargent:**

Good Afternoon Mr. Croasdale, Mr. Van Meter, Mr. Stevens, Mr. Baker and Chairman Smith:

I wanted to voice my support of the option for the subject proposed budget that was originally approved by the public works committee during their regularly scheduled meeting held Tuesday, February 25, 2020; and subsequently, has been under discussion at the various Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee (SSDAC) and Frederick County Board of Supervisors' meetings. I hope that the SSDAC meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 will be the final meeting on the proposed budget and that the option I've listed above will be recommended for approval by both the public works committee and the board in their next meetings. This proposed budget option includes no sanitary district fee increase, no reduction of sanitary district staff as well as returning the amount allocated for snow removal in the current fiscal year budget to the reserve fund to bring it back up to where it needs to be. I respectfully request that the SSDAC recommends approval of the proposed budget option.

This is the first time that I can remember a Shawneeland budget taking so long to be approved. In my humble opinion, it's scary to think that if this were to continue, there would be a possibility that there might not be a working budget for the upcoming fiscal year. I don't know if that could actually happen, but if it did, what would that do to Shawneeland?

My husband and I have lived in Shawneeland since 2007 and have been very satisfied with the services provided by the staff. They work hard behind the scenes as well during emergency situations such as major snowstorms and when we have high windstorms. During the latter they're out ensuring that if trees have come down onto the roads, they're cutting them up and moving them out of the way so that both emergency personnel as well as residents have means of ingress and egress. In addition, I would like to say that I worked for the county for 30 years, the majority of which were with public works (as you are aware, Shawneeland is an entity that falls under public works), I have somewhat of an understanding of how things work. I can also see where some of the residents that live here are coming from. I'm not the county's representative, but I do my best to try and explain certain things they bring up during the Sanitary District meetings in an attempt to help them understand. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. I try to look at things from both sides to help me make my decisions. I would also like to say that because of my time with public works, I know that there is a lot of necessary maintenance/work that the staff performs up here that many residents are totally unaware of. This may be where some of the confusion comes from.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Rhonda Sargent

**Neila Harrigan:**

Neila Harrigan

Address

622 Shawnee Trail

Magisterial District

Back Creek

Comments

This year (20-21) NO tax increases, NO cut in staff. Going forward we the homeowners of Shawneeland need to have more of a voice in how the Public Works and the Board of Supervises spend our taxpayer's money.

We (homeowners) need to work with the Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee on ways to cut items from the budget. I am submitting to you just a few of my ideas. 1. Back in the late 1900 the Park and Rec wanted to take over the maintenance of the lake/beach, but the Advisory board at that time thought that being that the beach would need to be open to the public it decided against it. (Now isn't funny that we have the public using the beach and there is nothing we can do about it). The lake / beach cost the taxpayers over \$9,000 per year that benefits 10 to 15 % of the homeowners. 2. Look into finding a sponsor to buy fish

for the fishing derby. What we raise is what we spend. That again only benefits a small percentage of the homeowners. 3. Look into the cost of cleaning supplies for the office. I use water, vinegar and blue dawn soap mixture that cost very little and does a great job. 4. Do away with the portable toilet at the office. 5. Frederic County at one time wanted to take over putting up signs, let's go with that. Saving more money. 6. Raise tax on unimproved lots, they benefit from the well-maintained roads and common area. 7. Look into finding a way to bill the heavy trucks using our roads. This is just a short list of items that I have come up with, and I am sure with everyone working together we could come up with a lot more. One thing that bothers me is your line items on the budgets. In my limited bookkeeping every item should be a line. Example: with the beach, sand, water testing, cutting the grass or removing trash. They all have a cost. The way it is now, it is like you are trying to hide what it cost to do business. Thank you for your service, looking forward working with SSDAC Neila Harrigan 622 Shawnee trail

Thank you,

Frederick County

**Kenneth Baker:**

FCVA,

There has been a lot of discussion lately regarding the Shawneeland 2021 budget. As a Shawneeland homeowner (2 properties) and resident, my family do not think any reduction in in the budget is necessary. The Services provided by Mr. Alderman and his crew, are exemplary, and I have concerns that any sort of budget cut would directly affect the quality service that is being provided and would have a negative effect on the quality of life in the community, which would directly affect new families coming into the community, and would negatively affect property values.

I hope you consider these views while discussing any budget cuts.

V/r, Kenneth Baker  
399 Hardwood Trail  
Winchester, VA 22602

The committee discussed budget proposals 2A and 2D. The committee voted 3/2 on the 2A proposed budget which is the original proposed budget from December with no fee increase.

Jimmy adjourned the meeting.