

Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee - Minutes of November 15, 2021

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

Those in attendance were Ken Baker, Barry Van Meter, Jeff Stevens, George Bishop, Rhonda Sargent, Kevin Alderman, Director of Public Works - Joe Wilder, Michelle Springer, and 14 residents. Supervisor Shawn Graber was absent.

Ken called for approval/correction of the August 2, 2021 meeting minutes. It was asked to make one correction regarding the number of quotes received. The minutes passed unanimously.

2022 SSDAC Meeting Dates: 2/7/2022, 5/2/2022, 8/1/2022, 11/7/2022

New Business:

Cherokee Lake Engineering Evaluation:

- Mark and Tim from Viola Engineering gave a presentation on their study from Cherokee Lake. They conducted a study downstream from where the sinkholes have developed. They wanted to get a good idea of where the water is going and what it is doing to the bedrock. Also, how the dam is impacted. The area that was fixed before is on the same side just the opposite side of the dam. They looked at multiple lines and determined there is fractured bedrock that is holding water. They showed comparison between their survey and the survey conducted by Triad Engineering 15 years ago. The comparison's show similar conditions. It is deep and wide and could be quite costly to fix. The survey section for Viola Engineering was 150-160 feet deep whereas Triad Engineering was only 50-60 feet deep. The subsurface has not changed drastically. This is not a simple fix as a couple bore holes and filling it with grout or polymer.
- Joe Wilder spoke about what the next steps will be:
 - Viola Engineering will put their study into a report and present some different options.
 - We will report back to the board with the study and the suggestions. Nobody will do anything until there is a consensus of what effort we want to try to do.
 - There are 3 options: just do nothing, solution to fill the holes to make it safe and give the lake a chance or develop a grouting operation again (will be 6 figures).
 - We want to get data and facts that we can present to have another discussion at a later date. There may be a special meeting called in December or January to talk through the options. The board wants residents to have the opportunity to speak their thoughts on the issue.

Questions from the citizens:

- Will there be multiple vendors come out and give an estimate? Once we receive the report and know the data, we will talk through the options and choose to go a certain direction then we will get pricing.
- What is the timeframe? We will have a report in a week or two. There is a Public Works Committee meeting on November 30th to update them. We will get feedback from the

Public Works Committee and the Board. Then a meeting will be planned to present some options to the residents.

- Is anyone considering researching grant options? At this point no we have not. We will check with Dam Safety.
- Will the kids be able to enjoy the beach in the summertime? Not unless we fill the holes and get the lake to hold water.
- Would the county consider an emergency loan like they did with Lake Holiday? This is still early stages, but it could be an option if that is something the citizens would want to do.
- A grant was proposed at one time to make the area a wetland and we could receive money for that. Is that still an option? It could be checked into.
- Has there been success with situation's like this before? Viola has seen smaller ponds get plugged and recover. This pond is unique. It could be fixed but at what cost. Viola has not seen a situation like this be fixed.
- There is an environmental concern with injecting anything into the ground. Whatever the fix there will be other issues.

A subcommittee was formed of committee members and residents to look into grant options.

Tomahawk Mailhouse Mailboxes:

- The Tomahawk Mailhouse is running out of mailboxes. It is proposed to either buy and install all new mailboxes to replace the old ones or to add an addition on to the existing mailhouse and add mailboxes as needed. The post office will not pay for new mailboxes or the installation. Newer mailboxes are front loading whereas the old mailboxes are back loading. \$78,000 is proposed in the FY23 budget for the project. Ken Baker will head a subcommittee to gather information for this project.

FY23 Annual Budget Review:

- The total budget proposed for FY2022/2023 is \$908,740. It is expected that \$844,400 will come from the Sanitary District Fees and \$64,000 will come from the Reserve.
- There is no fee increase proposed in this budget.
- \$78,000 plus \$2,500 is proposed for the new mailboxes and installation.
- There is no tar & chip project proposed in the upcoming budget.
- The county is going through a salary survey that may affect personnel services.
- The budget was approved unanimously.

New Committee Member: Rhonda Sargent was introduced as the new committee member. She spoke about working for the county for 30 years. She wanted to join the committee to try and bring an understanding of how things work behind the scenes. She wants to help citizens if they have questions and to help them understand.

2022 SSDAC Chairman: Ken nominated Rhonda for chairman. Barry asked if anyone else is interested in being chairman. It was voted unanimous that Rhonda will be the chairman for 2022.

Public Comments:

- Micah Jacobs presented a study he did on Tar & Chip versus Paving. He wants everyone to look at the cost and the payback. If anyone has any questions, they could feel free to reach out to him. The study did not include inflation.
- Brian Schmitt spoke on how the Tar & Chip seemed the worst this year. He had the following questions:
 - did the committee ever receive the cost benefit analysis on tar & chip versus asphalt?
 - why are subcommittees created but they aren't addressed at any of the meetings?
 - what are the important projects that prevented the sickle bar mowing?
 - what is the exact purpose of the committee?
 - what recourse does the committee and community have since Joe and Kevin are not in appointed positions to see that the money is used without community input?

The SSDAC chairman asked if he could send an email with his concerns/questions.

- A new resident spoke about his concerns/questions:
 - main concern was the lake, but you presented something and that was fantastic.
 - would like to see the recreational amenities improved and extended.
 - would like to see the ballfield improved and maybe a basketball hoop installed.
 - the secondary playground is unsafe for children. There is jagged metal, the steps are loose. It is not a family atmosphere.
 - there is no path to the main playground.
 - years of stonework gone neglected.
 - the pumphouse is not operational and does not appear to be a priority to repair.
 - abandoned and unsafe properties. (contact Planning and Zoning for this issue).

He will email his list of concerns/questions to the SSDAC chairman.

- Jeny Guy asked if the exposed tires that litter the lake could be removed while the lake is low. She also spoke how the lake was heavily used during the summer and it would be sad to lose that. Also, how a gentleman was able to feed his family because of the fish he had caught at the lake on that particular day. It would be a shame to lose the wonderful, fantastic lake.

The tires are shelters for the little fish to hide from the big fish. This is common in lots of places.

Traffic Concerns – Barry Vanmeter

- The Sheriff's Office did a speed survey on Tomahawk, Maple, Doe, Shawnee, and Apache Trails.

- Over the course of 8 days on Tomahawk Trail there were 18,541 vehicles registered on the road. Most of the speeds up or down the hill fell in the range of 26-45 mph.
- In a weeks' time on Maple Trail there were 5,888 vehicles registered.
- Doe Trail had 2,000 vehicles registered in a week's time.
- Shawnee Trail only had 3 days of operation and there were 3 vehicles at over 65 mph and a significant portion of speeds in the 45-55 range.
- This is only the 1st step; we are going to look at other spots as well.
- Most people only travel the mains and may be where we want to focus on looking into speedbumps.
- Frederick County does not use speed cameras.
- Step 2 will be to break down the numbers and see what the solution's might be.
- A variety of options along with the cost will be brought up.
- There will be another update in February.

The Manager's Report was not discussed during the meeting but is posted at the mailhouse's and the Frederick County, VA website. Copies are also available at the Shawneeland Office.

Ken adjourned the meeting at 8:37pm.