

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE **Draft 1/16/15**
COUNTY OF GREENE **Approved 1/26/15**
WATER DISTRICT #2 INFORMATIONAL MEETING
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Supervisor Dellisanti opened the Informational Meeting at 6:00 PM. Also attending: Deputy Supervisor Ruso, Councilwoman VanEtten, Councilman Norris, Town Clerk Finke, Tax Collector Jordan, and 12 members of the public who signed the attendance sheet.
Absent: Councilwoman Benway and Highway Superintendent Jordan

Supervisor Dellisanti began before we get started you might notice that we have a video camera and we will be taping all of our meetings from now on. Hopefully, as we get all the bugs washed out of this in January, we will be able to send it to MH Cable and if you are not able to be here at a Board Meeting, you will be able to see it on television. It will be a few days after the meeting, but you have at least the same access from your house as well. So if anyone has a question or comment as we go along, please step up to the podium over here so we can get you on the tape machine. I just wanted to let everyone know that I have been in contact with Mayor Evans concerning Water District #2 and I asked him to give us a report on possible maintenance for 2015. He had one of his employees look at the area and said "I had Pat look at the hydrant list and it has been determined that there are five hydrants in Scheller Park, two on 9W and approximately nine in the Serta complex. The five in Scheller Park were installed in 1973, but all work. The water mains are in decent shape and we aren't planning any maintenance above and beyond normal preventative maintenance for 2015. I hope this helps." I wanted to get to him and ask him, I wanted to let the people know in District 2 what the possible cost was going to be for 2015. I also asked him about the water rates and he got back to us saying that their Comptroller hasn't come up with their numbers yet and they probably won't come up until the early part of the spring. So that is as much as I know as of today. We did invite all 29 people that live in District 2 to be here tonight and we wanted to at least give you as much information as we had. What I had planned to do, as soon as I get something from the Mayor's office or his representative, I will get it out to you in letter form to give you an idea of exactly where the Village of Cossackie is going with the Water District. As of today, according to our bookkeeper, the Water District stills owes money to the General Fund. I don't know the exact amount, and also the Lighting District which does not affect you. I wanted to get that out to you, I wanted you to understand what we are trying to do. As soon as I do get any information from the Village of Cossackie, I will disseminate it to you and be available for any of your questions. So if you do have some questions, please just let me know and we will do the best we can in answering them.

Sharon Hillman began I had a question about the amount of money that is in the 3450 fund, they call it Operation and Maintenance. We have been paying that for a year, so according to my calculations, I think it is like \$4,000.

Councilman Ruso asked is that the repair of the hydrant that we had earlier this year?

Sharon Hillman responded that was paid separately, that was a separate charge.

Supervisor Dellisanti added that was above and beyond.

Sharon Hillman explained there was also another repair that was above and beyond operation and maintenance category and I just wondered what the balance of that fund is.

Supervisor Dellisanti asked 3450 was what you said?

Sharon Hillman added to my knowledge nothing has been taken out of that for repair.

Tax Collector Jordan explained 3450 is Maintenance. In the beginning of the year it was not kept separate from the regular fees. It was just recently that Jeff called Bonnie and asked her to put it in a separate line. So it would be on a separate line now, but as of January it wasn't under its own line.

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Sharon Hillman observed according to my figures, there should be a balance of \$4,002 if you take \$34.50 and add it up and multiply it by the 29 users, but I've never been able to get a balance as to what is actually in there.

Supervisor Dellisanti replied I can't find that number either. I'm still looking for the category you are talking about. It is number 3450?

Sharon Hillman answered said yes, it's called operation and maintenance.

Councilman Norris asked is that the budget line, you are quoting that 3450?

Tax Collector Jordan replied 3450 times the 29 users times the 4 quarters.

Councilwoman VanEtten noted that's the amount, we are looking for the budget line.

Supervisor Dellisanti questioned you are saying it is budget line 3450?

Sharon Hillman answered I don't know, that is the amount on our bill.

Councilwoman VanEtten observed we are looking for the line item on the budget.

Councilman Norris observed so I have \$1,961 as of the beginning of December up to November 30, it is budgeted for \$4,000. What did you say your calculation was, \$4,000?

Sharon Hillman stated I calculated \$4,002.

Councilman Norris said we budgeted \$4,000.

Sharon Hillman continued so my next question is...

Supervisor Dellisanti noted but that's what's in there now correct, \$1,961.30.

Councilman Norris added unless Diane has figures that are up-to-date until today. That money comes in all the time I imagine.

Supervisor Dellisanti replied as of November 30 we have \$1,961.30 and we budgeted \$4,000.

Sharon Hillman said that's because everyone hasn't paid their bill yet, because if you add up the total amount, we paid 4 bills now and that would total \$138 x 29 users, so there should be a balance of \$4,002 in there.

Councilwoman VanEtten explained right, but not all water bills have been paid.

Sharon Hillman stated there was a charge on the previous bill for \$16.17 for a repair and if you multiply that times the 29 users who all received a bill, that came to \$468.93 which was the cost of that repair.

Supervisor Dellisanti added that was a main break.

Sharon Hillman continued the cost of that repair which was certainly low enough to come out of that fund and I'm just wondering why it was never taken out of that fund.

Supervisor Dellisanti explained because the fund still owes money to the General Fund.

Sharon Hillman questioned the operation and maintenance should only be used for operation and maintenance, isn't that correct?

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Supervisor Dellisanti confirmed that is correct.

Sharon Hillman asked and you are saying that fund still owes something?

Supervisor Dellisanti noted there is money still owed to the General Fund.

Sharon Hillman asked from the operation and maintenance?

Supervisor Dellisanti explained it is showing just for 2014 we are down a little over \$2,000 as of November 30.

Sharon Hillman inquired so money hasn't been taken out of that fund?

Supervisor Dellisanti replied money had to be borrowed from the General Fund to pay the bills.

Sharon Hillman requested I'd like to get a reckoning of that account on my bill because we were also charged for two periods for the hydrant of \$100.

Tax Collector Jordan stated \$99.74, almost \$6,000.

Supervisor Dellisanti pointed out what I will do I will get a report from our bookkeeper exactly what the figures are as of this meeting and I will get that out to you.

Sharon Hillman questioned why did they come up with \$34.50? Do we know the origin of that number?

Supervisor Dellisanti answered I do not.

Town Clerk Finke pointed out that was the resolution that was adopted last year.

Sharon Hillman questioned why \$34.50?

Councilwoman VanEtten explained that was adopted last year. We weren't on the Board, do you remember, Chris?

Councilman Norris reported I imagine it was the total amount divided by the number of users, that's the figure we came up with, as opposed to rounding it off. I guess that was the fairest way the Board decided to do it was the actual bill divided by the number of users and came to that figure.

Sharon Hillman responded yes \$35. So you are saying that there is currently a balance in that account, you were saying it was \$1,900....

Supervisor Dellisanti added we are short about \$2,038.

Sharon Hillman asked you are short that much?

Supervisor Dellisanti replied as of November 30, I don't know what has come in between November 30 and today.

Sharon Hillman stated so when you say you are short \$2,000, you mean you are short of reaching the \$4,000 goal by \$2,000. So there is approximately \$2,000 in that fund at this point.

Supervisor Dellisanti observed \$1,961 as of November 30.

Sharon Hillman continued and you are still taking money out of that fund to pay back the General Fund.

Supervisor Dellisanti explained I'm not sure how much that is, That is the information I am going to get for you because there was a loan taken out from General Fund prior to our Administration. I don't know what that number is today.

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Sharon Hillman asked that money that was borrowed was not used for operation and maintenance?

Councilman Norris and Supervisor Dellisanti responded it was used for repair.

Supervisor Dellisanti pointed out there must have been a repair that they had to borrow money for.

Councilman Norris confirmed a broken main two years back.

Sharon Hillman stated they borrowed it last year, so the fund wasn't even in existence last year so how did those bills get paid?

Councilman Norris responded again the District borrowed from the General Fund and then it has to be paid back to the General Fund.

Supervisor Dellisanti observed that's probably where the o&m started.

Councilman Norris explained o&m is new to you so that you won't find yourself paying these extra fees going into the future. You never had an o&m before, operation and maintenance, in the budget and maybe it is something we should have looked into years ago and it would have been a little less and you would have some money in there to pay for these repairs going forward so you won't get hit with this type of thing. Last year we had a Public Hearing to let the folks know that we were going to start this o&m line item so that we can build up some money so if there are any breaks in the future, then we have money in that fund for repairs. In the meantime, I think what happened was this year you had a broken hydrant so that had to be paid for right away so you were hit with another break. I understand your frustration I think and all I can say we are trying to alleviate the problem going forward. Money that we are putting in there now is so we can have some money in the future to use for future repairs. We are doing two things. We are putting money into a fund for future maintenance and operation repairs and at the same time you are paying for stuff that was broken this year and you had to pay for that too. You got hit a lot and I understand that and I guess the Board should have enacted an o&m fee years ago so that we would have money in that budget line for repairs. We didn't and I can say you had relatively low rents for many, many years and you also got a triple whammy because also your rents went up too.

Sharon Hillman added I'm told by Cocksackie that for many years the water district has not even been self-sustaining, They didn't up the fees and now we are being caught with that also. We are trying to catch up from when we weren't...

Councilman Norris stated you talk about the whole water district, Cocksackie Water District, as a whole, that's true too.

Sharon Hillman noted I don't know about that. I don't think we should be paying for all of Cocksackie's water district.

Councilman Norris explained their whole district, they kept their rates low and your rates low too at the same time because they never raised rates and I think they were borrowing from their General Fund too to help pay for their operation and maintenance.

Sharon Hillman remarked so all of a sudden its catch up all around, getting hit with all these big bills.

Councilman Norris agreed unfortunately you are absolutely correct, that's exactly how you can sum it up.

Sharon Hillman asked is there any hope that once we have accumulated enough money in this account that it will be reduced or eliminated, maybe we shouldn't eliminate it.

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Supervisor Dellisanti mentioned we had this conversation when you were in my office and I think it was a good suggestion and I that would be a great goal to get to.

Sharon Hillman suggested at this rate we would be adding \$4,000 a year to the fund, so after 5 years, hopefully if there aren't too many repairs we could have as much as \$20,000 in that fund.

Supervisor Dellisanti added if everyone pays their bill.

Sharon Hillman observed at that point I would think it would be reduced or eliminated because we can't just keep paying. I don't know if that money is being borrowed to do other things, I believe if it is in the budget under operation and maintenance it can only be used for operation and maintenance.

Supervisor Dellisanti agreed that is correct. I thought that was a good suggestion when you were in my office a month or so back. We did talk about that and that would be our goal to get to that point, Thanks very much.

Eugene VanGaasbeck asked that hydrant they took out in front of the doctor's house, that weighed quite a bit of weight. What happened to that hydrant, who got it, where did it go to? You could have sold it and make a few hundred dollars on that.

Supervisor Dellisanti answered it is the Village of Cocksackie's materials.

Eugene VanGaasbeck continued you could have made a few hundred dollars in salvage, a lot of weight to that.

Supervisor Dellisanti explained we didn't own that piece of equipment, the Village of Cocksackie owned it,

Eugene VanGaasbeck asked they own that?

Supervisor Dellisanti replied yes they do.

Eugene VanGaasbeck said I thought we bought them.

Supervisor Dellisanti responded no we did not. We bought the new one, we didn't buy the one that was put in 1973 or 1953 or whatever.

Eugene VanGaasbeck noted 1974.

Supervisor Dellisanti stated we didn't own that piece of equipment.

Eugene VanGaasbeck continued I thought we bought them when we put the line in. That break that we just had, up in the field, across from bus station, that was not part of our line. That must have been the old line up in there. Our line goes right along Scheller Park Road, all the way up to the doctor's house. That was in the field was something else. I don't know if you knew that or not.

Supervisor Dellisanti explained we were told it was a water main break for our line

Eugene VanGaasbeck said not on our line, that must have been the old line.

Councilman Norris asked what road are you talking about, Scheller Park Road?

Eugene VanGaasbeck answered Scheller Park Road, that break was up in the field

Supervisor Dellisanti asked I didn't know that. You were saying the break was in the field not in the road?

Eugene VanGaasbeck replied that's right because I saw them digging it up.

Supervisor Dellisanti noted I will look into that, thank you.

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Ken Rebusmen began just a simple question. My bill states the third quarter, the last bill I paid in November, I thought we were four quarters. The reason I ask is the \$306 that I paid was supposed to be the final billing for that large amount and it was supposed to be paid in the fourth quarter. Now this bill stated the third quarter and I already paid. Does that mean I will get another bill?

Tax Collector Jordan answered no that was the fourth quarter billing.

Ken Rebusmen noted so theoretically we paid one a month behind.

Tax Collector Jordan stated yes, the billing didn't go out, a month after, everybody had that extra month. I'm not collecting until Christmas Eve is the last before I turn it over. It usually is November 1.

Ken Rebusmen continued another question, the line breaks that occurred like Gene said in a field, I think that it is part of Zini's service house, goes through underground from there, I don't know.

Eugene VanGaasbeck added that's quite a ways away, Ken, that was a long time.

Ken Rebusmen said good point to make, could be it was broke there, their is service is up by the house and water runs front of the road. I think it went into the field.

Supervisor Dellisanti asked, would you repeat that, Ken, please.

Ken Rebusmen explained the break that I thought that they repaired in the field was on the water line between the power company and Zini's property, if I'm not mistaken. If I'm mistaken it could be by a couple of feet, but I don't know. I think it crosses under the road there and traverses over to Zini's service I think. I could be wrong.

Eugene VanGaasbeck questioned why would they go way down that way to break in the line and go to Zini's house, it doesn't make sense to me. It would be a racetrack across the road.

Ken Rebusmen answered because they do strange things. Why did they dig the parking lot to find my water line?

Supervisor Dellisanti observed Ken, please address the Board. We can't have conversations going back and forth. We can't hear that.

Ken Rebusmen continued nevertheless it was two, the hydrant and that. A third one down by the Thruway that was added to that maintenance.

Councilman Norris asked this year?

Ken Rebusmen answered yes, this year, beginning of this year.

Councilman Norris suggested I thought the one by the Thruway was last year.

Ken Rebusmen replied was it?

Supervisor Dellisanti and Councilman Norris answered there were two this year and that was last year.

Ken Rebusmen stated you answered my question, thank you.

Annaliese Lydon began I live on Orchard Lane, I don't have much of a voice left either. I'm very confused by the whole thing. I was here at that Public Hearing where we found out we would be paying additional payments during the year, because we had initially been only paying the two. My problem came this year is I didn't know when the bills were coming. I paid my bill in February which is my normal time and then I don't know if I missed a bill after that because I didn't know when these were coming and then I paid one in August and I didn't pay the right

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amount in time. The check was sent back to me for the new amounts and then I wasn't home because I was on vacation in August never realizing that. Then I had the amount sent to me in November and apparently that wasn't right because then I got a note saying that it was \$100 too much, but you did keep that amount. I have no idea how much my bill for the year is. I don't know when it is supposed to be paid. I will tell you part of my problem is that I do everything electronically. Most of the stuff I get in the mail ends up in my back seat because it is junk mail and the poor little water bills from New Baltimore get lost unless I know when to look for them. So if there is a possibility of giving us the months when they are due and I know like with my taxes if I can't make it this month, then next month it will cost me ... and on and on and on, rather than telling me I was late, send it back, I'm not home, miss the next date and then I looked back and said how could this be so much money, I paid almost \$900 in my water bill this year. Come to find out, the amount that I had sent in August was never accepted, sent back to me and I never saw it. So if we could have some kind of continuity on the months when they are going to be paid. I don't know if you can do the little thing like on the taxes always does me well because I know what to send and I won't make a mistake filling out the taxes, although I will say you kept my last amount of money. But I still don't know, what was our total charge this year?

Tax Collector Jordan explained there is certain months when they went to four billings a year, you used to get one in February and August. Now you get four.

Annaliese Lydon agreed in August, that I can understand. What months do I look for this, could you maybe send us a schedule or on the website?

Tax Collector Jordan suggested I will mail out a letter and I will put the months they are due. As far as amounts, I can't because they change. Like you said if something breaks, I add that to the bill so it won't be the same.

Annaliese Lydon questioned can you then tell me how much do I still...I don't even know if I owe more money now this year because of the confusion with the checks. So I may be one who either overpaid or underpaid, but I have no idea what I paid at this point in time.

Supervisor Dellisanti confirmed we will look into that and get back to you.

Tax Collector Jordan added I will take your name and number and I will do up everything and I will send it to you.

Annaliese Lydon noted I lived in the Hamlet for many years and I don't care how much water costs, when I flush I have water.

Supervisor Dellisanti concluded thank you all for coming for this quick meeting and just get some information.

Motion to close the Informational Meeting at 6:56 PM by Councilman Norris seconded by Councilwoman VanEtten

AYES: Dellisanti, Ruso, Norris, VanEtten

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Benway

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara M. Finke
Town Clerk