

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the District of Powers Lake
Board of Commissioners - Friday, August 29, 1997

Chairman, Jim Michels called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He introduced Beth Buri who would be taking the minutes. Next he reviewed the agenda and introduced the Board members.

In attendance: J. Michels, E. Burke, P. DeMichele, K. Kipp, B. Laurine & M. Pelz
Excused: G. Melcher

Minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read by K. Kipp and approved as presented. Annual minutes were distributed for review.

Citizen Comments:

Barb Christensen asked DeMichele to explain why he thanked the Town Board and inquired as to how they supported the Lake District. DeMichele stated that the Town Board acted as election judges and poll watchers. The Town Board members insured an accurate count of ballots at the District's annual meeting and election. These controls were a significant improvement over last year's election handling.

Barb Christensen asked about the closing of the boat launch at the fire lane. Laurine stated that this was the first he had heard of that concern. He believes we need to cooperate with the Town Board and the Water Patrol regarding regulations. He stated that the Town has the final word. He is here only to represent the people on the lake.

DeMichele's position is that the Town and Lake District will enter into an agreement with the DNR concerning operation of the new launch. As far as closing any other launch, there is no agreement of record.

DeMichele asked Barb Christensen to ask Jerry for any remaining bills from the attorney.

Ed Burke commented about the rules and regulations set forth in the Lake District Management Plan.

John Simpson mentioned that we have a book approved by SWRPC in '91-'92. It is to be the district bible.

Bill Lynch asked about the 396th St. access at Bayview Park. He didn't think the District had any voice in closing it.

Kipp responded that the plan is written in stone by the membership and voted on, and that it will be followed.

Mark Pelz stated that the town has no intention of closing the ramp.

Irene Stryker said that if you open up the two ends of the channel , the junk in the center will float out into the lake.

Nancy Crabtree asked about the Sugar Grove address on the letterhead. Michels respnded that it was his business address and it was used to help expedite this special Board meeting mailing.

The usual address is PO Box 462, Powers Lale. Michels said this meeting was needed to take action on clearing the channel.

Nancy Crabtree also mentioned that we have a new treasurer, Bob Laurine and inquired as to what kind of controls were in place to check his work. Michels said that they are two party checks, meaning every check has two signatures.

Nancy asked if they can be assured that checks wouldn't be issued that should not. DeMichele stated that they are double checking every bill and matching it up with every budget item. Presently, they are checking out insurance. It is possible to reduce our cost in that area. Laurine mentioned that the only outstanding bills are legal bills.

Jack requested that citizen comments be placed toward the end of the meeting. Michels said it would be taken under consideration.

Barb Christensen asked if anyone would be attending the WAL meeting. Michels said we will be sending a representative. Laurine said dues to the organization have been paid and we are subscribers.

Nancy asked about the article in the Westosha which stated that Laurine is offering to pay for the dredging of the south side of the channel. Laurine said this is correct, and will pay whatever the cost for his end. Michels asked that this topic be held until after the Financial items.

Transitional Financial Audit

Laurine said the transfer went smoothly and there were no problems or questions. Micheles said it was not necessary to have a full blown audit, but it would be appropriate to have some sort of audit. DeMichele suggested that we have an audit committee.

Kipp mentioned that she had two bids for outside auditors. (\$200.00 from a Twin Lakes Co. and a \$1600.00 from a Lake Geneva Co.) DeMichele stated that the cost of an audit is based on the quality of the books. Following discussion, DeMichele made a motion to set up an audit committee of two commissioners who do not have check writing authority. Laurine seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 4-yes (Michels, Pelz, Laurine & DeMichele) 2 -No (Burke & Kipp)

The audit committee will be DeMichele & Burke. They will report back at the Oct. 3rd Meeting.

Jefferson Island Channel

Michels showed maps and proposals from SWRPC showing the wetlands and drainage areas. The channel consists of 2 sides, North (lakeside) and South (bayside). Kipp stated it would cost \$3500.00 to clear the north end 12'-15' wide by 4' deep. The permit for this work was requested by Jerry Christensen. The channel needs to be cleared 15' wide by 150' long by 3' deep to solve the problem. Laurine submitted a revised plan to the DNR and they have approved it. The revised plan included clearing 15' wide by 100' long by 3' deep for the south end of the channel. This portion will be paid for by Laurine. The original bid to the District did not include any site restoration or disposal site grading. The \$3500 bid will have to be revised upward to include this work.

The access property owner on the north end of the channel has a tenant. The earliest start date is Sept. 15. Inland Dredge Co. can not do the work after Nov. 15th and the DNR will not allow the work to be done in the spring when fish are spawning. That leaves the District with only a short period to do the work this year so we need to move quickly.

Bebe Helmer lives next to the channel and wants it cleared for health reasons.

John Simpson lives near the channel and supports the clearing project. He believes it is an asset and would like to see the commissioners work together to get it done instead of just talking about it.

DeMichele moved that the District be authorized to spend up to \$6000 to clear the north end of the channel. Laurine seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Donna Hayward said she understood cleaning out the channel but believes it's not a natural waterway. She thinks that we will have to do elaborate digging every year to keep it open. Michels said that this is not elaborate digging and will not have to be done every year. This blockage was caused by illegal dumping creating an eyesore. Action needs to be taken by the District to clear it.

Bill Lynch said the District was formed to serve the whole lake and compliments the board for going forward with the project.

Nancy Crabtree asked where the money was going to come from. DeMichele said it will come from the budgeted wetlands project fund.

DeMichele modified the motion to include that the District's contract will be separate from Laurine's contract for channel clearing. The District will obtain written access agreements for the access and disposal sites. Laurine seconded the modified motion. Vote was unanimous.

There was some discussion of aquatic plant management.

Then commissioners voted to go into closed session to discuss current litigation.

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The commissioners went into closed session to discuss the Lindskoog lawsuit and the resulting legal fees from it.

Much discussion ensued on how the legal bills generated were much higher than any possible recovery and who was responsible for it.

There was a consensus of the board to accept the \$1500 settlement offer with stipulations. The stipulations were that Ms. Lindskoog acknowledge her actions and refrain from cutting down anymore trees. Attorney Lehman was instructed to present our counter offer. The Lake District will suspend any further legal expense in this area. DeMichele moved to accept the offer subject to the stipulations. Burke seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Attorney Lehman was told that we were missing legal bills since July 31, 1997 and would need copies for payment review. He was also told that expense reimbursements for mileage, meals and phone calls would require supporting detail (ie phone number/person called etc). Also that communication to and from the Lake District was to be thru Chairman Michels.

The commissioners returned to open session and adjourned.