

**ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING FOR FOWLER LAKE PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
September 3, 2019**

Mayor Nold opened the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM. The Clerk confirmed appropriate notice was given.

Sullivan gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed 2020 budget for the Fowler Lake District stating projected revenues are \$35,700 (tax levy) and \$500 in interest totaling \$36,200. Expenditures for goose round-up, weed harvester replacement fund and advertising/postage/administration are estimated to be \$36,200. In 2020 we are establishing a fund for the purchase of a weed harvester and will put aside \$30K each year for the next ten. We budgeted \$100K for repairs in 2019 and that is expected to keep the equipment going for ten years. The Commissioners noted that \$5K is put in the budget every year for goose round-up and asked if it was helping. Frye stated since 2014, 153 geese have been removed from the area and noted that an adult goose produces 1-2 lbs. of droppings per day. This year the round-up did not occur because the USDA Fish & Wildlife changed their procedures. We must guarantee that we sighted and know there are at least 35 birds per collection, and we didn't have those numbers at the time of the round-up. Overall, the round-up has been effective. The Commission asked if the goose round-up is just for Fowler Lake or for the entire Fowler Lake District because there were 50 geese swimming in the Silver Lake Trails retention pond. Frye stated he will have to reach out to USDA Fish & Wildlife to see if private stormwater ponds are included.

Jack Thomas, 515 E. Grove St. stated he has noticed the geese population has gone down. No other comments were received. The public hearing closed at 7:26 M.

Mayor Nold called the Fowler Lake Annual Meeting to order immediately following the public hearing and announced that any elector and/or property owner in the Fowler Lake District may participate in the meeting.

Roll Call: Commissioners Rogers, Rosek, Shaw, Ellis, Spiegelberg, Zwart and Strey

Staff Present: Mayor Nold, Kitsembel, Freber, Pickart, Sullivan, Gallo, Buerger, Osborn, Frye, Steinke, Hoepfner, Lam and Coenen

Others: Atty Riffle

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Shaw to approve the minutes of the 8/21/18 Fowler Lake Annual Meeting as written; second by Rogers. Voice vote carried.

Staff Reports: Goose Round-up – Frye reported the goose round-up was discussed earlier during the public hearing.

Lake Equipment – Frye reported it was decided last year to do a significant expenditure and refurbish the lake equipment, which has been done. The cost to replace the weed harvester is \$300K+ and by establishing the fund we will be able to do so when its time.

Fowler Lake Drawdown for Dam Inspection – Frye reported a letter was sent to property owners about drawing down the lake in order to fully inspect the Peacock Dam. Staff has reached out to the DNR for approval and the drawdown will start on Monday, September 30th. It will take a week to do the drawdown because by permit requirements we can only lower it by 4 inches per day. Staff would then complete the inspection and then raise it back up; 4 inches per day. The lake should be back to its normal levels by the end of October. The Commission asked why we are doing another drawdown so soon and Frye stated the last drawdown showed deterioration of the crib dam, which was built in the 1930's. By getting a better look at the dam we will have information needed to submit for a grant to do the maintenance. Once we get the grant, we will have to do another drawdown to do the repairs.

Adoption of Resolution Establishing an Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund – Weed Harvester: Motion by Zwart to adopt the resolution establishing an equipment replacement reserve fund for the purchase of a new weed harvester; second by Shaw. Sullivan stated this resolution is to establish an Equipment Replacement Reserve Fund for purchase of a new weed harvester through the levy. We are looking at 10-years to build up the fund to \$300K for the purchase. Voice vote carried.

Adoption of 2020 Budget: Motion by Ellis to adopt the 2020 Budget in the amount of \$35,700; second by Zwart. Sullivan reported the levy amount is \$35,700 with \$30K for the equipment replacement fund making the mill rate \$.0186 per thousand or about \$4.65 per average home. Rosek stated he is voting no on the budget because he doesn't like separate rehabilitation districts. Fowler Lake is enjoyed by all City residents and if were going to put reserved funds aside it should be paid for by everyone. Voice vote carried.

Set Tax Levy for 2019: Motion by Shaw to set the 2019 Tax Levy for the Fowler Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District at \$35,700; second by Zwart. Voice vote carried.

Set Meeting Date for 2020: Motion by Spiegelberg to set the 2020 Fowler Lake Rehabilitation and Protection public hearing and meeting for the same night as the second Council meeting in August 2020; second by Zwart. Voice vote carried.

Any other business that may properly come before this body: Zwart and Spiegelberg stated they received a call from a constituent regarding placement of weeds on the pier and pickup. Zwart suggested picking up the weeds off the shoreline instead of the end of the pier. Frye stated this is time consuming and when the lake is lower staff cannot get close to the wall. There is a safety concern for the crew when stepping on the rocks at the shoreline. The operation is done on Fridays and takes approximately 5-6 hours.

Jack Stoner, 320 E. Pleasant St. #307 asked if it would help if the weeds could be picked up on Monday's instead of Friday's.

Jack Thomas, 515 E. Grove St. stated it's proper to put the weeds on the end of the pier. He suggests having two pick-ups, Friday and Monday. This would be much safer and save the workers time.

Frye stated during the summer staff is on the lake everyday whenever they can. In the past we did 2 pickups, Friday and Monday, but Monday's had small amounts of weeds, so we went to only Friday's.

Motion by Strey to adjourn; second by Zwart. Voice vote carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Diane Coenen, City Clerk