

**Sanford Village Council
Special Open Meeting
Four Lakes Task Force letter of Support
April 23rd, 2019**

A Special Open Meeting of The Village of Sanford Council for the discussion Four Lakes Task Force request for a letter of support for the special assessment area and Part 307 of the Michigan Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act was held on April 23rd, 2019 at Jerome Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by President Dolores Porte at 6:30pm.

Pledge to Flag

Roll Call: Council

Present: Lon Wackerle, Carl Hamann, Marlene Glinski, Don Whaley, Dolores Porte

Absent: None

Special Guest: Adam Beebe from the Four Lakes Task Force was present to discuss part 307 request, special assessment area, operations, and maintenance of the Four Lakes jurisdiction.

Council Member Don Whaley asked Adam Beebe "will municipalities be assessed in the Four Lakes Jurisdiction?" Adam responded no property will be exempt county, township, state, and private will all be assessed. The Task Force will break up the area into residential, agricultural, and commercial as well county, state and DNR will be based off frontage and no one will be exempt. For private owner they will be assessed by frontage and not by lots. For example, if an owner owns three lots at 100 ft each the owner would be assessed for 300 ft not for 3 lots. Owners of back lots will also be assessed but at a reduced rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ of the front lot cost regardless of the size. Adam stated that in good faith they are working with Spicer Group to determine the assessment area. The assessment is currently based off a 20-million-dollar bond but that is subject to change. Adam also let the council know that Senator Jim Stamas and the State of Michigan have \$5 million that is earmarked for the Four Lakes Task Force if the project proceeds as planned. This funding can only be released in a 307 district and it does not have to be used equally in all 307 districts. The funds can only be used for upgrades and repairs to the dams not for anything electrical/electrical producing repairs. Money that is generated from electrical production of the dams can be used towards the electrical production repairs. Any revenue above what is used for maintenance and repairs is owned by the non profit and can be contracted back. Currently 3 of the dams have electrical production and Four Lakes would like to preserve the ability to produce electricity. The Edenville dam currently is unlicensed and produces 50% of the electrical revenue. The Four Lakes Task Force is looking to buy out Mueller for ownership of the dams. Adam stated that Mueller would walk away with some cash after they clear his debt. The Task force would then take on part of his debt and renegotiate it with USDA loans, small business loans, and there is a hedge fund in GA. That is willing to renegotiate the debt. Fisher Contracting is working with the Four Lakes Task Force for maintenance and repairs. Midland and Gladwin counties would get ownership the dams would be run by delegated authority and they would need to find an operator for the daily maintenance of running the dams. They are hoping to renegotiate with consumers for a 20-year contract instead of the 5-year ones normally written for the dams to help with financing. The Four Lakes Task Force believes this is the best way to solve the current issues related to the dams and that they are not able to be run as a for profit dams.

Don Whaley asked if there is consideration of water flow in this transition. Adam stated that lake levels would remain at FERC regulations and water flow will not change. If 307 is assigned they would work with DEQ and DNR to set levels and flow. It is beneficial to have 307 put in place now because if for some reason the dams are not in FERC compliant, they immediately fall back to 307 status and the water level is not in jeopardy.

Adam ended with the statement that 307 will help set the district and ownership and management will be by the people who live here and not matter what there is more interest to the community because it will not be driven by profit.

Motion presented by Porte the council is supportive of writing a letter to the judge to support the establishment and approval of boundaries of a special assessment district of property owners affected for the purpose of repair, replacement, operation, and maintenance project known as the Four Lakes Project. As well to support to formalize normal lake levels for all four lakes in accordance with Part 307 of the Michigan Natural Resource and Environmental Protection Act.

Glinski so moved and it was seconded by Hamann

Council Vote: Yea: Glinski, Wackerle, Hamann, Whaley, Porte

Ney: None

Absent: None

Motion carried without objection.

MOTION to adjourn meeting

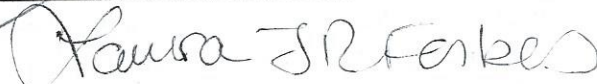
Glinski/ support Whaley

Aye: All

Meeting adjourned @ 6:50pm April 23th, 2019

Minutes recorded & prepared by:
Laura Forbes, Clerk


Dolores Porte, President


Laura J R Forbes