

EAST SHORE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING – DRAFT 2021 BUDGET
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

September 11th, 2020

A motion to open the Public Hearing was requested by Acting Chair Jim Bremner at 3:00 p.m. A motion was made by Welch and seconded by Johnson.

Present: ESCD Board members Brian Welch, Jim Bremner, Peter Cleveland, and Whitney Johnson. Also present was Kathy Clark, ESCD operations manager.

The following Freeholders were present and signed in: Dave Steinhilber, Julie Hollowell, Linda Hippenhammer, Jim Sturman, Emily Sturman, Mike Deery. In attendance but not signed in was Katy Lewallan and Dave Gibson.

Consultants present: Alan Hux, Taft Law plus Buzz Krohn with Brandon Barthel of Krohn Associates.

Questions from Freeholders:

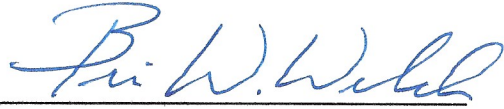
Hollowell asked about a letter sent out to some Freeholders from a Board member saying that everyone has to hookup immediately. Board member Whitney Johnson responded that she responded to an email she had received and noted that it was not meant as an official response. She explained that she had said in the email that it may become mandatory to hook up either in 2021 or 2022. Steinhilber said he'd received the email and thought he had to hook up.

Hippenhammer asked if vacant land would get charged a User Fee. Bremner said no.

Lewallan asked if the special benefit assessment would always be charged. Hux explained that while there may always be a SBA because it was set up to supplement the operations and maintenance expenses, that would depend on how the District charged for User Fees in the future. Hippenhammer asked why freeholders couldn't be paying a higher User Fee versus even having an SBA? Bremner offered that the subcommittee was attempting to keep the overall cost burden on those with more bathrooms therefore the more bathrooms a home has the higher their User Fee. SBA is a way to levy an assessment, based on assessed value, to cover the operations and maintenance costs. Deery asked for confirmation that the User Fee would be based on bathrooms. Bremner explained that the bathroom approach was followed by South-West Lake Maxinkuckee Conservancy District, and bathrooms are on the County property records so it was the most reliable comparable to find, adding that he hoped everyone was fairly reporting their bathroom counts.

Lewallan then asked about multiple parcels; if they are not adjoining would they get an assessment? Bremner replied that on SBA they would be assessed but on the EBA the current thinking seemed to be that vacant, buildable parcels might not be until such time as a home is constructed. Before construction of a new home began, they would be expected to pay their equal cost share along with all other Freeholders.

Hollowell stated that some lots are valued at \$3,500 while others can be millions of dollars. She asked "why we couldn't be just and equitable instead of doing these assessments. Other districts use different formulas," she said "and they are willing to share those with us." Bremner stated that it was felt the assessments are fair and equitable. Bremner made a motion to close the hearing at 3:31 and that motion was seconded by Cleveland.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian W. Welch". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Board Secretary Brian Welch
September 22, 2020