Village District of Eastman
Commissioners' Meeting, August 26, 2025
53 Wellfield Road, 9:00AM

In attendance: Commissioner Terry Large, Commissioner Brad Moses, Commissioner Bill Weeks, Treasurer Bill Samuels, and General Manager Amy Lewis.

Guest: Joe Megerman, 32 Bay Tree Lane (Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by Commissioner Large.

West Cove A Fencing:

Commissioner Large welcomed Mr. Megerman and read his email regarding the height of replacement fencing at West Cove A surrounding the new wet wells at the lift station.

Mr. Megerman confirmed his problem with the fencing height. He also stated that since he sent his email to the VDE, he had learned that teenagers hang out under the covered bridge near the WCB lift station. Since there is no fencing around the wet wells at WCB, there is no need for a high fence at WCA. Also, the removal of the mature shrubbery prior to the wet well work, and subsequent planting of newer bushes, increases the emphasis on the stockade-like appearance of the WCA fence.

Commissioner Moses said that as a group the Commissioners' job is to ensure that all upgrades VDE makes to the wastewater system lead to the enhancement of the property values of the entire community. In addition, the VDE plans to replace the water mains in WCA next year, another major and necessary improvement. The fence at WCA has a larger footprint because there is a larger area to protect and to avoid injury liability issues. The VDE will consider similar sized fencing at WCB to protect residents and to avoid the possibility of vandalism.

Commissioner Weeks agreed that many actions have been taken to improve the infrastructure all around. He then referenced an instance when a beachball was kicked over the fence, and if the fence had been smaller, someone might have tried to climb over it and been injured. Once the newly planted shrubbery grows in the fence height will be less of an issue.

Commissioner Large stated that the fence is a standard size and is necessary to ensure to the extent possible that access to VDE assets is limited. A lower/shorter fence might invite people to try to enter the protected area. The intent of the fencing is to avoid unauthorized personnel accessing VDE structures.

The consensus of Commissioners was that the new fence will remain since it will not have a negative effect on home values, and potential buyers will not have a before/after comparison. WCB did not have fencing around the wet wells prior to the replacement project; now fencing will be considered there as well.

Commissioner Large asked Mr. Megerman if he disagreed with anything that had been said. Mr. Megerman said that the proper height of the fence was a matter of opinion. He appreciated the improvement efforts but asked if a 6' fence was really necessary when a 5' fence would suffice.

Commissioner Large said that the existing fence is appropriate. By unanimous opinion, commissioners voted to leave the WCA fence as installed.

Mr. Megerman thanked the board for their time and consideration and exited the meeting.

CIP Discussion:

The Capital Improvement and Major Project Plans for water and wastewater were reviewed. Commissioner Large and GM Lewis have updated the forecasts with current opinions of costs from consultants on various projects.

Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) updates are due to the state each October until 2027, at which point all service lines in the system are to be identified. We have been able to reduce the number of lines classified as "unknown material" which still leaves approximately 400 connections that need to be verified. The funds set aside in the CIP for this will act as a placeholder until we know exactly how many service lines remain to be visually inspected.

Commissioner Large made the motion to accept the updated CIP projections as presented. Commissioner Moses seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. GM Lewis will post the CIP reports on the website.

At 10:00AM, the VDE welcomed Andy Sharpe (in person) and Dan Jacobson (Teams) from Underwood Engineers (UE) for a discussion on the West Cove A/Trail 6 Force Main.

The pumps at WCA should be alternating but are instead acting as lead/lag. Dan will contact Champlin to find out why this is happening; it could be a simple programming fix.

David Mercier from UE joined the meeting at 10:01 on Teams.

D. Jacobson: The siphon tank on Summit Drive discharges into the force main on Trail 6. It is assumed that the air relief valves on the force main are not working properly. To diagnose this, the plan is to replace the air relief valves and plug the outlet from the siphon tank so all flow comes from the WCA lift station, and monitor the flow and pressure drops. The air relief valves are standard stock items, so no special-order items are needed.

D. Jacobsen: Data comparison between 2/1/25-6/1/25 flows, and 6/1/25-7/31/25 flows have shown a significant decrease. The first step is to test the force main after replacing the air relief valves. Commissioner Large added that the water table is very low now which could result in lower infiltration flows.

D. Mercier said that generally, air blockage results in higher discharge pressures and lower pump rates. Current data suggests a possible break in the force main.

Commissioner Large said that the wastewater CIP provides funds for video inspections of the sewer lines. However, according to D. Mercier, video inspection of the force main would not be possible as it is under pressure and would need to be empty to visualize any leaks. He suggested moving forward with the proposed scope for the force main work. This project will be separated from the original West Cove A/B project. UE will close the ESR 23 agreement and continue the force main project under ESR 23-A.

D. Mercier exited the meeting at 10:30.

Tasks assigned:

- Locate Sewer Manhole 14: VDE
- List and procurement of equipment and materials needed: UE
- VDE Staff availability: Late September/early October
- UE Staff for monitoring pressure tests: Dan and/or Andy
- Confirm pipe diameters: VDE

D. Jacobson will provide an updated ESR 23-A to VDE for review at the September VDE meeting and he exited the meeting at 10:46.

Fernwood Update:

A. Sharpe provided a brief update on the Fernwood water main replacement project; work was delayed due to a machine not being delivered when expected. The equipment should be on site tomorrow, 8/27, and work will continue.

GM Lewis asked A. Sharpe to remind KA Stevens that construction updates are needed weekly.

With nothing further, Commissioner Large moved to close the meeting at 11:06. Commissioner Moses seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Lewis
General Manager
Village District of Eastman