

e-News 16 May 2010

Most of this info was presented at the Town Meeting, following the Annual Service Corp Meeting on May 15th. I apologize if it is a repeat for those who came and stayed to hear this.

Dam/Lake Update

The Lake is FULL. The Lake is 'full' once water starts to trickle over the spillway at 2280 feet. "Normal" pool is higher, and can be up to 2281 feet, to account for more than trivial flow over the spillway.

Site Restoration, the last part of the Phase II bolstering of the dam, is ongoing and should be complete by June. Phase III [new secondary spillway] will be engineered and quoted later this year and begun likely in 2011.

Last week, Council voted to accept a Somerset Trust Company offer of a \$6.5M interest-only Line of Credit for two years, at an attractive fixed rate. This will allow us to complete Phase III, reassess the long-term funding needed, and take our time exploring the municipal bond market for long-term funding of the completed project. Our current \$5.5M LOC with PNC will expire at the end of the month, and is being replaced by the new LOC.

Lacking any new grants, a substantial housing growth spurt, or other revenue windfalls, our estimates show that the total **overall** tax burden to pay for the dam debt will be a further tax increase of just less than 20% starting in 2011-12 and pretty much leveling out after that. Borough millage, alone, will go up more than 20%, but our estimates hold County and School taxes as fixed, and at 40+ mils combined they will still dominate our overall tax rates, capping the overall at 20% or less.

At the Service Corp Annual Meeting/Borough Town Meeting on Saturday [May 15] the suggestion to raise Service Corp Fees to help offset tax increases again came up. In 2008 the Planning Commission did an in-depth study of this strategy, and other strategies, for keeping taxes down. The full Report is available on the Borough web site or by [<clicking here>](#).

Advisory Committees Update

Council approved formation of 3 Advisory Committees; one on Business/Commerce Development (business@indianlakepa.us) to foster creation of something like a Chamber of Commerce for local business interests; the second is a Community Events Committee (community@indianlakepa.us) to explore building a stronger sense of community and a 4th "Holiday" weekend between July 4th and Labor Day with a Lake focus; the third is a Recreation Committee (recreation@indianlakepa.us) to explore new parks, playgrounds for our kids/grandkids, and other recreational opportunities. Each of these Advisory Committees will be run by the community members, with support from Council as needed and requested. Charters and membership will be posted to the Borough web site under a new tab Borough-->Committees. Feel free to contact them, using the e-mail addresses provided above, and let them know your ideas.

Flood Insurance and the NFIP Update

We have obtained clarifying flood elevations, and it is good news. 2284 is the number to remember; if your property is above this elevation it will be out of the floodplain. If your property and structures are

inside the floodplain but your home's ground floor is more than 18 inches higher (2285.5 feet), your insurance rate should be reduced. Structures are each insured separately and "accessory buildings" to residences and workplaces generally do not have to be insured. Garages, sheds, etc., are accessory buildings and we should be able to add boat houses to the list of exceptions. Of course, that will be up to a lender.

We received a newer draft of our suggested Floodplain Ordinance from the state, and it is currently under review. [A copy was posted to the web site under the **Borough->INFO->Town Meeting 2010** tab] It appears it can be locally customized and will be locally enforced, most likely by our Zoning Officer. It also appears it dovetails with the current DEP Encroachment permitting process, or can be made to, as lakefront structures are by definition in the floodplain/floodway and covered by both.

Based on this new info, it appears only a handful of properties will be impacted by the new rules, new maps and new ordinance.

Emergency Operations Plan

FEMA is requiring that we update our EOP this year. This is our 'emergency preparedness' plan to be implemented in the event of a disaster. To complete this we need some help. We need to inventory residents with **SPECIAL NEEDS** [Hearing Impaired residents, Non-English speaking residents, Disabled Residents, Individuals requiring Ambulance for transportation], **EQUIPMENT** we might be able to lay our hands on [Cranes, Trucks, Dozers, Excavators, Water Buffalos, Loudspeakers, 2-way and Amateur Radios, etc., that people may have], **SUPPLIES**, and **SERVICES**. We need to capture this info now, taking our time, and updating it periodically, so we can jump into action when the time comes. These blank lists of items are posted on the web site [under **Borough->INFO->Town Meeting 2010**] and input will be accepted in any form you like. Information on this portion of the EOP will NOT be made public and will be distributed only based on demonstrated need-to-know.

SwiftReach System

This system is a telephone calling, text messaging, e-mailing robot employed to contact you any way possible to get you a message. The primary driver for this system is a state drinking-water mandate that says we must notify users whenever we do maintenance on our water lines/equipment. The system we chose to do this, SwiftReach 911, can do this very well, but can be used for any/all emergency notifications and will be factored into our Emergency Action and Operations plans as well. We want to thank you for cooperating on sign-up and thank you for your patience in advance as we test on startup. We are good for now on data to feed the system; **new users** will be asked to sign up via our web site [new link/page].

Thank you for your time,

Bob Hanson
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