

LAKE ARROWHEAD OPEN BOARD MEETING

Tuesday February 20, 2001

NOTE: Next Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Present: P. Nauta, J. Stanton, E. Baresh, K. Mellen, L. Speiss, A. Atkinson, K. Scornavacca, P. Rand, D. Robinson

Absent: M. Bertram

President Peter Nauta called meeting to order at 8:14 PM. The meeting minutes from the December 12, 2000 Open Board meeting were read.

Motion: by Kirk Mellen, second by John Stanton to approve the Open Board minutes as read. Motion passed.

The primary purpose of this Open Board meeting was to discuss the proposed budget for 2001. The following reports given by each chairperson highlight their portion of the budget and how the monies will be appropriated.

Treasurers Report: Provided by Al Atkinson: For the month of January 2001, the beginning balance was \$34,260.14 with receipts of \$9,513.49 and disbursements of \$18,956.03 leaving a closing balance of \$24,817.59. The major expenditures for the period were for insurance and taxes. Ralph Finson questioned who our insurance agent was and whether bids for a new contract have been issued recently. Peter Nauta mentioned that the previous treasurer, Bill Kahl, did research other companies and found that our agent, Richards & Summers, was the appropriate choice. However, the Board did agree to reinvestigate the matter.

Al Atkinson proceeded to discuss the operating portion of the proposed budget. He mentioned that there was an error under the "Lakes" section of the document. Instead of \$0.00 under lake leaf removal, the number should read \$800.00. The operating section of the proposed budget was rather straightforward because much of the costs are fixed. There is some concern regarding the allotted money for gas since prices are rising so dramatically. In addition our property taxes will be reevaluated this year, but Peter Rand noted that the increase would be effective October 1, 2001, so the increase in taxes will be addressed in next year's budget.

Ralph Finson mention that in years past the Board has appealed to the town of Denville regarding tax increases and as a result have been able to save money. Peter Nauta said that he did go to the town hall to see how we were taxed compared to other lake communities and found that we were right in line with the neighboring lakes.

Clubhouse report: Provided by Doug Robinson: The biggest expense under the clubhouse section of the budget is for bar repair and a new awning for outside. They also plan on painting and staining the lakeside front of the clubhouse, as well as repairing the window trims. Doug explained that they would be getting a contract for termite/ant extermination that would look over the property roughly every quarter. Mary Ellen Stanton questioned the price of the new awning. She mentioned that the auxiliary purchased one in the past for around \$450. Silvia Lacey inquired as to what the money appropriated for the bathrooms was going to be spent on. The money will be spent repairing the pipes in all three bathrooms (outside bathroom included). Silvia Lacey then pointed out that the 2nd floor attic stairs were recently replaced and asked why there was a line item in the budget for that expense. Apparently there was an oversight in the budget and the money that was designated for the stairs will be used for the bathrooms instead because the stairs are indeed new.

Grounds Report: Provided by John Stanton: Most of the grounds section of the budget is allocated for the proposed fence along Mosswood. In addition perennials and annuals will be planted through the property. At this point Ralph Finson added that snowplows are pushing everything off of Rt. 46 near the lake and the salt is melting into the lake. The proposed fence that the Board has discussed might help alleviate that issue.

Beach report: Provided by Kirk Mellen: Most of the beach's budget revolves around lifeguards. Kirk mentioned we also need a few signs that highlight the state law that no person under the age of 16 is allowed on the beach without adult supervision. Kirk thought we might need to take the money that was put aside for new sand and get the signs instead. The Lake Arrowhead residents in attendance did not agree. There was also a discussion revolving around

lifeguards for the upcoming beach season. Peter Nauta added that we have had problems in the past getting guards because we are only offering about \$6.25 an hour for a 20-hour work week. Apparently qualified guards want more money and more hours than we can offer. Mary Ellen Stanton said that she has spoken to others in nearby lake communities and they were surprised we didn't have guards. Kirk stated he tried several different contacts last year, but unfortunately he couldn't entice anyone to work at our beach. There is one teen in our neighborhood that is interested in becoming a lifeguard and working at our beach this year, but that individual can't be expected to work every day all summer long. Silvia Lacey questioned what steps were being taken to ensure we have more than one guard available for our beach. Kirk Mellen assured her that the matter is being looked into. Tom Dean thought that the arrangement we had last summer worked out rather well and wondered if we were thinking of doing that again (not hiring a certified lifeguard, but rather having beach attendants on duty). Peter Nauta added that there is no legal reason we need a guard, but the residents have explicitly stated that they want a guard for the beach.

Lyn Rand asked about swim lessons for the upcoming summer season. Kirk Mellen will contact his leads and see if we can get lessons in place this year. Unfortunately if we don't get enough people that are interested, the lessons will be canceled.

Lakes report: Provided by Peter Rand: The money allotted for treatments could be more or less depending on the amount of heat or dry weather patterns we have this summer. We will treat the lakes the early part of June because it is better to treat early. Testing the lakes might cost \$375, rather than the budgeted \$350. It has also been decided to set up an escrow account for leaf removal since it is so expensive to do. Once there is enough money in the account, the areas that need leaf removal the most will be addressed. In addition the docks will be repaired. Apparently the dam inspection will cost \$2,000, not \$1,200 as budgeted for. Peter Rand hopes to have money left over from treatments to cover the deficit, however, no one has contacted him to do the inspection and it was agreed that we would wait for further instruction rather than stir the issue. Peter Rand added that we didn't stock the lake last year with fish, partly because we spent \$6,000 in treatments. He hopes to stock the lake this April. Mary Ellen Stanton questioned whether we needed to stock the lake and stated that she would rather have sand than fish. Peter Rand replied that the fish serve as part of the lake's ecosystem and many residents are concerned about it.

Recreation report: Chair to be named, interim report provided by Peter Nauta: Peter Nauta started by asking for volunteers for this position on the board. He has approached a number of people and has been unsuccessful in finding a chairperson. Peter Nauta went to the 1/24/01 Hub Lakes meeting as the Lake Arrowhead representative. He reported that the Hub Lakes budget is nothing more than a copy of last year's. Mary Ellen Stanton raised the question that if we don't get a chairperson, could we pull out of Hub Lakes and save the money instead? Peter Nauta agreed that might happen if we are unable to find someone to fill the chairperson's role. In addition there was some discussion as to the amount of money that was allotted for Hub Lakes in the budget. Karen Scornavacca checked back on other budgets from years past and found that historically our Hub Lakes budget was much smaller than this year's. There is some concern however that if we decide not to participate in Hub Lakes, some of our members might not renew their membership with Lake Arrowhead either. Ultimately it was decided that a flyer would be distributed to ask for volunteers to fill this position.

Membership report: Provided by Karen Scornavacca: The budget will be spent on flyers, welcome packages and the annual wine & cheese party.

Special Projects report: Provided by Lisa Speiss: The budget is mainly for hosting the beach barbeque. There was some question as to whether or not we should do away with that event, as it generally loses money for the club. However, many of the residents present disagreed. Last year the barbeque lost about \$600, but several people thought that the timing of the event and other factors could have been to blame. In addition to the beach barbeque, the money is allotted for special projects such as protecting the documents that are currently archived upstairs.

Bar report: Mike Bertram was absent, so no bar report was provided.

<p>Motion: by Kirk Mellen, second by John Stanton to approve the budget as presented. The budget passed. 14 yes (7 by proxy), 4 no, 0 abstain.</p>

Old Business:

- **The Mosswood Fence:** It was the Board's intention to install a fence along Mosswood to prevent further encroachment from Anchor Hardware onto what was thought to be our property. The owners of Anchor Hardware claimed that the right of way was their property. They mentioned their intention of turning their two residential lots fronting Ridgewood Parkway into B2 (commercial) lot for parking. The Board sent Anchor a letter asking them to prove that they owned the land right of way. Anchor did in fact produce a deed from 1977

for the 5-½ foot right of way. They apparently paid \$1,000 in '77 to the successor to the Arthur Crane construction company for the land. It appears that all the property that Crane had deeded to the club never specifically mentions this 5-½ foot right of way. This puts the club in a difficult situation. It seems the town isn't willing to step in and help resolve the issue either. We discussed whether the fence would still serve the purpose we originally intended. Many members present felt we should still erect the fence and protect our property. Others felt it still wouldn't stop them from parking on Mosswood as we originally intended.

- The Blinder's request: Jo Ann Brown asked about the Blinder's request for a Lake Arrowhead sign on the other side of Rt. 46. At this point there is no money set aside in the budget for a sign. In addition, Jo Ann wondered what we were doing about the encroachment that has taken place on their property. Since it is not feasible to offer financial or legal support, the club has offered to lend them morale support, which was expressed at the last open board meeting. Peter Nauta also noted that he went and looked at the pond, which is in no worse state than in previous summers.

New Business:

- Dual seats on the board? Sylvia Lacey questioned whether one person could hold two positions on the Board of Trustees. Peter Nauta responded that this has been done several times in the past and since all votes on the Board are equally weighted, there shouldn't be an issue with someone holding two positions.
- Rumble strips: Mary Ellen Stanton noticed rumble strips in Cedar Lake and Rock Ridge and wondered if we could explore having them installed in Lake Arrowhead. The Board felt we could inquire with the town to see what could be done.
- The Diner: Ralph Finson mentioned that he has heard rumors regarding the diner located on Rt. 46. It appears they have a modified plan for expansion and are preparing to take action on it. Ralph felt in light of this rumor, we should pay careful attention to how the Mosswood fence issue is handled.

Motion by P. Nauta, second by J. Stanton to adjourn at 10:33 PM. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Baresh
Board Secretary