

MARYS RIVER ESTATES ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET MEETING FY26-27

March 16, 2026

Zoom meeting

Meeting will be recorded for the purpose of note taking by secretary. Recording will be kept for one year on personal computer and approved written minutes will be kept on website indefinitely.

Attendees: Rick Veronen, (President), Debbie Jackson (Treasurer) and elected Budget Officer for FY206-27, Sandy Chapman (Secretary) Robyn Lillehei joins at 6:33 and had to leave at 7:15

Call to order: 6:31 by Rick

Debbie: We officially have to elect or nominate a budget officer. Rick says Debbie would be a great one. Debbie is willing to be it. [Sandy makes a motion for Debbie to be the Budget Officer. Rick seconds the motion. Rick: All in favor? All Commissioners Rick, Debbie and Sandy agree. Debbie is the official Budget Officer.](#)

Rick sent out to Debbie and Sandy a budget message with his thoughts on the carry-forward would be 150% of our normal scheduled work that we normally do each year such as dust treatment, grading and graveling. We would have money in the budget as "carry-forward" for year to year, so that if it comes that we were doing it in the summer before we get the revenue from November taxes, we have money to do it. The other thing would be if we already have active projects that we already started or scheduled and we have money in the budget that is allocated for it, that we make sure the carry-forward is there to take that work on and do it without having to wait for the revenue to show up in November-December. The minimum carry-forward (of 150%) would be there so we do not get into trouble. Debbie's questions: on clarifying operating maintenance and administration (referring to what was written in the message and not now described by Rick) when Rick talked about the 150% of one-year operating expenses; Debbie want to know if Rick is referring to the whole budget? Or what we are calling the Materials and Services (M&S) part (of the budget)? Rick clarifies it would be the M&S part and any other projects that we have established and anticipate them being carried out before we start getting revenue again. Debbie does not know if we need to set a minimum amount like that. Looking at last year she notes that M&S were \$63,000. If we did the 150% that would be (a carry-over need of) \$120,000. We had a carry-forward of \$100,000.00 for that period. She does not know if it is necessary to quantify as a strict amount. She has never seen that done. She says we will put a question mark for that need. Sandy adds that if we say we have to put 150% forward and we have to pay for things to get done, that is going to limit our ability to get things done if we say we cannot spend that and we have to carry it forward. Debbie understands and explains: with our carry-forward of last year of \$100,000.00, that would not have been 150% of our M&S. (that \$100,000.00 is less than a 150% carry-forward) Debbie clarifies that there is a difference between Materials and Services and Budgeted Expenses. The work on Daisy Drive was in Budgeted Expenses. If all of the expenses for Daisy were included in the 150% carry-over we would not have had the money to pay for it. Rick identifies M&S which he says are mowing, tree cutting, signs and lights, ditch maintenance, shoulder work, culvert, something that is routine work. Debbie agrees on that and says we will not be issuing the budget message until we are ready to send the budget. we can just put a question mark on that need (of % for carry-over). We might just say in our budget: this is an estimated carry-forward after we have done our summer projects. Rick explains that when he was looking at things he had a \$30,000.00 amount for M&S which would make the 150% carry-forward \$45,000.00. Other work like shoulder buildup, work culvert and we have already discussed that, then that would be on top of the \$45,000.00. Debbie says by the end of the budget meetings we will have a budget message to accompany the budget.

Back to the budget message that Rick put out, Debbie has a question on whether it is necessary to say that "while there is no detailed plans or adequate information for some budgeting of anticipated planning and possible work in the fiscal year" Debbie does not feel that this statement is necessary. By the time we attach the detail of the budget document, it will not be necessary. Another question mark placed there. Debbie says the rest of it is really good history for what we are doing. If anyone looked at this for the first time, it gives the context.

Debbie screenshares and presents the spreadsheet that historically is being used with added information "rolled forward" to be able to work on it. Basically, it is based on a combination of what was budgeted last year and as well as where we are on our "spend to date" with our last expenditures included. She left budget 24-25 to be seen. We see last years adopted budget of \$233,272.00 and the next column shows our spent to date. Debbie adds space holders noted in yellow of what we talked about last meeting (for potential projects still to do in this budget year). She added a new column for what we are planning to do for this next years (FY26-27) budget. The totals will compute how much of a percent we have in each of the three areas 1). Costly Projects, 2). Materials and Services, 3). Operating Contingency. We now have a tool to plug things into. **Action Item: Debbie to send out the working budget file after each meeting.** With the grading and ditch work on Iris, Debbie separated the cost into separate billings received for the work. Rick suspects we will need to add more gravel come fall on Iris to prevent troubles reoccurring. Debbie will fill in expenses paid for our committed projects that will be done in the balance of FY25-26 (through June 30, 2026). This will give us figures to look at for our actual carry-in cash.

Debbie continues: Depending on how soon people get back to us, we still have budget to do culvert maintenance, culvert cleaning we have \$9,000.00 left there. There is also money we did not spend on other things like \$25,000.00 for engineering on Daisy that was not needed. So, we have leeway in our current FY25-26 budget that Debbie is not worried about going over. We have to decide what we still want to do this year and what do we want to get done next year? We might get done dust control, mowing and tree work. Whether we get done with culverts (is not decided). Other things we had budgeted with placeholders for FY25-26, was shoulder repairs, Tansy turnaround; big ticket items. If we are not doing those yet, we need to make sure we do them in FY26-27. Rick: they will be a carry forward if not done, we still need to get permission for the turnaround. Debbie: we still need a contractor. Determination needed on what type of turnaround is needed: a hammerhead or Ricks thought of a U-turn. Debbie wondering if we need engineer or can we use the fire departments requirements? Republic has no standards. Rick does not feel we need engineering on it and weight/compaction requirements can be met as they were done on the pullouts on Iris for the PFD. Sandy says we need surveying. Rick feels if we get an easement from them without a survey, that will be fine. Debbie asks who are they? answer: Rick: the owners of the property. Robyn adds we need to get Republic to agree (to use the turnaround) and she may have a contact we can talk with. Debbie: If we put it in and Republic does not use it..... Rick: as a RD we have to maintain our roads being clear. If people are leaving cans half way out in the road and are leaving them with many stacked up for days we are not doing our job by providing a road service. The ones on Tansy are right at the corner (blocking the road). Robyn: Potential thirty-nine cans could be at the bottom of Tansy if trash cans are not taken care of. Sandy: The cans do not have to be on the road (for pick-up), they can be in peoples' driveways. She has to go around trash cans all up and down Daisy. Rick: maybe need an ordinance for our trash cans. He would rather not have to make rules, but if needed we will.

Debbie: (back to the budget): Actually, we are thinking that Tansy (turnaround will be next FY26-27? Yes. Shoulder repair? Is that next year? We budgeted this year? Sandy thinks it needs to be done this year. There are several places that need to be done; on MRE where we did not fix the shoulder when the pavement was done. There are several places where people are going off of the pavement and making muddy places where gravel should be added. On Columbine multi-modal gravel needs work

because there are ditches on the sides of the pavement. Debbie: What type of contractor does that work? Rick says that James already does that type of work by what he did on Iris with the shoulder of the ditch rock forming a shoulder for the road. Debbie asks what our contractor limit is hire? Sandy: \$25,000.00. Debbie: We have a good amount to use before this year before we hit that limit. (this is the limit that the RD can hire a contractor without having to put out requests for multiple bids or advertising) Debbie would like to get the shoulder work done this FY25-26 year and not have to budget it for FY26-27. Question on what should be included? Does the "berm" that keeps water from running in the ditch along the pavement be removed? Does the buildup alongside driveways be removed by the RD. Who can we get? Suggested to ask James of his ability to get the new shoulder work done. Rick to review what Sandy has sent to Commissioners about the shoulder and culvert/ditch repairs she sees a need to do.

Debbie brings up a budget request from Adam Schultz concerning the shape of chip seal on Daisy Drive being the worst he has seen. She explains that everything besides Daisy was chip-sealed in 2015. Everything was crack sealed in FY24-25. Daisy was chip sealed in 2016. Now it is ten years old. Rick: It (the chip seal) being not there is not a negative for the road except that it helps with traction on ice. It is there to prolong the asphalt. Rick has contacted other RDs and they are in the same boat, not having any way to chip seal the roads, so they quit doing it. Rick suggests that we take someone that does good work on parking lots and have them chip seal short section of our roads and get it to our satisfaction. It might take a year or two in developing this. Debbie asks if we are going to do any of that in the upcoming year? Rick says we can be prepared to do so.

Debbie: What else are we going to do next year? Rick: Possible items are dig-out and overlay with pavement the area on Columbine where it was crack sealed, but is now cracking more and breaking up from the spring beneath the road. Also, suggested to do the culvert repair on Columbine (just before Queen Anne and Columbine junction) at the same time as we would be doing the same thing; digging up and compacting again on top of the culvert. Other areas to repair for alligator cracking are on Columbine near Finch (dig-out and overlay) giving us trouble and most anywhere else there is alligator cracking it is giving us trouble. Sandy: If we are looking to do that all over there are two places on Daisy, but they are not falling apart. Rick adds we also have Tansy. The areas on Tansy that did not get crack sealed because they were so bad need dig-out and overlay, restore the roadbed. Rick continues: The chip seal on Queen Anne in places is almost gone. As a future project, we can consider letting the chip seal continue to disintegrate and go back to treating it as a gravel road. At some point when it gets to the intermediate stage and we want to treat some of it as gravel road, we might want to run a roller over it and grind it all up. Possibly FY27-28

Debbie: Are we to a point that we need to find a chip sealer? Or start training a chip sealer. Rick: We would start with Daisy. Find someone that I setup to do driveways. Test his limits make sure he has the equipment that can go beyond that scope. And run a test drive with them, maybe half a mile. Debbie says Daisy is a mile and that it was the most recently done, but if it is in worse shape because of more deliveries and things like that. Rick says he needs to find someone first. Debbie to put the potential project on the Columbine Daisy line in the budget comments. Debbie putting notes in the cells.

Debbie asks a question of what is the RD's responsibility for private driveway culverts? Do we do like we did on Daisy where the road was undercutting and we have another big project. Or do we go through the list and grade them for priority needs. What affects the main roads or what individual driveways? Is it the individual responsibility to clean their driveway culvert or the road districts responsibility? Rick: It depends on what we establish. Some road districts have the owners mow their own ditches in front of their property. In the past, if a culvert needs to be replaced it has been required that the property owner replaces the culvert. We have done cleaning of driveway culverts and also have not done cleaning. Rick says a lot of driveway culverts were not permitted. It was the requirement of the landowner to get their access. Obviously if they are not cleaning it and there is

water running on the road the RD will probably go out and clean the culvert because it is impacting the road. If the individual culvert is getting so bad it is going to disintegrate and collapse the owner will probably go out and do something about it. It's only if it is impacting the road that we really have to do something. Debbie: If we have a culvert that goes across the roads and goes bad? Rick: That is the road districts responsibility. Debbie: With the culvert information (that Sandy has compiled) we need to determine which is the RD responsibility and which is the property owners. Then if we need to have an ordinance that says for property owners to clean out their own culverts, we will have to do that. Rick needs to look at the list yet to determine what needs to be done. Debbie is trying to understand what the RD should do and or could do. Rick: Cleaning is optional for us to take on or to require the home owner to do. Replacement or repair is not something we want to get into if it is damaged by people driving over it. Or if it is old and rusting that is the responsibility of the property owner. Debbie: We can look at the list and see what we really should do, maybe get some of it done next year.

Rick: There are a lot of aspects.. we do not maintain the driveway as it dumps into the road. How far does the RD extend its responsibility?

Debbie: Is there anything else we can do today?

Rick: We can look at the (tax) rate. He does not think that automatically pinning it to the max is equal to the amount of work commensurate to what we can do in one year. Debbie: We need to see where we end up. Rick: Keep an open mind as far as what the rate should be. There is only so much time to manage projects and so much access to contractors that we have. We have enough for the little jobs, the big ones take energy. Sandy: It also depends on what we choose for the bigger job whether we can or should, we always can, but should we decrease or leave it the same depending on what we need to do for next year or in two years. Rick: That's right, we may trying to put money in the bank for Tansy repair.

Rick asks what the particulars were on the MRE Rd repair. Debbie finds a \$61,000.00 cost. **Action item: Debbie will find the Vendor and send the results out to Commissioners along with the working spreadsheet.**

Debbie makes a motion to adjourn the Budget meeting. Rick seconds. Sandy: all in favor? All Commissioners Rick, Debbie and Sandy agree.

Debbie says we need to schedule the next budget meeting. Monday April 13 is agreed on at 6:30. Meeting adjourned: 7:57