

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
April 10, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Tim Brower, President, called the meeting to order at 5 PM. The meeting was held at the Tri-Lakes District Office, 5240 N. Old 102, Columbia City, IN.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Board members present were, Priscilla Peters, Tom Wise, Linda Parker, Ruth Orr, George Schrupf and Sue Schroeder. Carol Martin, Carol Cuney and Cliff Creason were also in attendance.

Guest

Gene Heckman – Thorncreek Trustee

Gene explained that Parkview Hospital might be staffing the fire station full time with emergency EMS services. He wanted to know if this would affect the rate the fire station monthly rates. There was some discussions but it was felt that they wouldn't have much impact on the usage. The benefit the community would gain having them that the rate should stay the same.

MINUTES & REPORTS

The Minutes and Financial reports were emailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes reports as presented, Priscilla seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by six (6) to zero (0) with George Schrupf sustaining. Sue made a motion to approve the Financial reports as presented, Ruth seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by (7) seven to zero (0).

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Martin, discussed some engineering needs for service in Magic Hills. There is a vacant lot which is about 300 feet to our line. There have been several calls inquiring about cost for service which would require a line expansion. Carol discussed having an engineer to figure line size and cost to be sure to accommodate additional customers with the thought of future needs with the county wide sewer district.

Ryan Egolf, our certified operator yearly contract was presented and reviewed. His monthly fee for 2017 will be \$575/month up from \$550/month. Carol explained this was still a wonderful partnership with Ryan as the typical going rate for operators start at \$1000 and up a month. Sue made a motion to approve the new rate for his services, George seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by (7) seven to zero (0).

Carol addressed some maintenance needs for the district. She presented pictures of the asphalt drives of the stations along with the district office. The stations approaches and drives have not had any sealing or crack fill for several years. VanAm Seal & Stripe provided a quote to address the office and five stations for a total of \$3,490. George made a motion to approve the repairs on the drives to not exceed \$3,490 with the thought of a couple more quotes to see if we might have the work done at a reduces cost. Tom Second; verbal vote of the motion carried by (7) seven to zero (0).

The lane to the lagoons is in need of some stone as well as the drive to the back lagoon is getting pretty rutted up. The SDI had ground up slag (Dura Berm) for \$250/ load and looking at 5-6 loads would be needed to fix the areas. Tom made a motion to allocate up to \$2,000 for the stone work, Sue seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by (7) seven to zero (0).

The Trustees reviewed Sewer Rate Ordinance 2017-1 proposing a 5% (\$1.18) rate increase on the operation/maintenance and billing. After some discussion Sue made a motions to proceed with the 5% rate increase, Ruth second; verbal vote of the motion carried by (7) seven to zero (0). The public hearing will be held at 5:30 May 8, 2017 at the district office. Carol will have the required notices sent to the newspapers, website and on the monthly billing.

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OLD BUSINESS

Engineer needs were discussed again with all the Trustees present. The thought was hiring a new firm to be involved and become familiar the system and our operations. After much discussion, Sue made a motion to proceed with the on-call engineering services of Engineering Resources from Fort Wayne, Linda seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by (7) seven to zero (0).

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

We have stopped discharging at the moment; the water levels are pretty low in all three lagoons. We will try to discharge again by before the start of summer to keep the lagoon levels down.

The treatment in the lift stations seems to be helping and is working its way through the system. Carol recommends continuing with the application. If we stopped and then the buildup came back it we would back at ground one and need to start all over again trying to clean up the stations.

Carol shared a list of all the new construction on going in the district. There are currently 18 new homes or remodels. There are only very few which will require a new pit package as we will be able to accommodate these new connections with the existing infrastructure. There were already several which have already been completed and off the connections list.

Carol announced to the board that she needs to scale back her time at the district. Taking care of her husband and working a full time job is now affecting her health and job performance. She recommended finding someone who had more of an accounting background to be able to take care of the financials and reports required by the state. Tina was still helping out, but her time is limited and she's not wanting a lot of extra hours which the job requires. Carol will review employment applications and reach out to Keystone and some other resources to see what we might tap into.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Priscilla made a motion to adjourn and Linda seconded the motion. All Board members voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Tim adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Sue Schroeder, Secretary