

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
August 8, 2016

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, George Schrupf, Priscilla Peters, Tom Wise, Sue Schroeder and Linda Parker. Ruth Orr was absent. Carol Martin, Cliff Creason and Matt Shipman were also in attendance.

GUESTS

Patty Burns – 7214 N. Brown Rd.
William Etzler – Engineering Resources
Matt Shipman – Bloom Gates & Whiteleather

Patty Burns addressed the invoices from Service Master for the cleanup work to her home due to the backup caused by AirVac leaving her pit disconnected. The claim has been going back and forth between insurances companies since the middle of May and she has been pretty patience while this claim is being worked out. She wanted to express her need to get this settled so she can get her home and life back in order.

William Etzler from Engineering Resources came to introduce himself and his firm. Engineering Resources has a lot of experience with wastewater plants and has provided solutions for many municipalities and industrial clients. They have done work for Columbia City and several other sewer districts in northern Indiana. He wanted to reach out and see if they might be able to help with some of our future projects.

MINUTES & REPORTS

The Minutes, Operations and Maintenance Reports were emailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Tim asked for any additions, deletions or questions with any of the reports. Priscilla made a motion to approve reports as presented, Tom seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by Six (6) to zero (0).

NEW BUSINESS

The lagoons are in need of algae treatment to be able to discharge in another month. Aquatic Weed Control has kept their price (\$1,950.00) the same for the past three years regarding this treatment. The lagoons are also in need of additional the rip rap; we can get a couple loads and use the correctional help for the labor to spread the stones. These items were budgeted for the lagoon's maintenance this year. George made a motion to have the lagoon treaded and the rip rap replaced, Sue seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by Six (6) to zero (0).

Carol reviewed with the Trustees a proposal to start replacing the chatterboxes in the stations. The current chatterboxes are no longer available outside of old stock or eBay. The district has nine stations with these chatterboxes along with their own phone lines. We replaced one chatterbox in 2011 at the cost

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of \$1,800, the phone lines run the district a little over \$7,900 a year. Simplx Security proposed equipment change out at \$1,200 each, this is cellular based which will call out and can be monitored by mobile app or website to determine if condition has corrected itself or if service is needed. The monthly cellular charge with automated calls would save over \$30 per month over the current phone lines or \$3,240 per year should the district replace all the stations. Carol suggested changing out three of the stations at this time to see how it works and then we would have a few extra chatterboxes for parts to service the other stations. With community involvement in mind, Carol was asked to reach out to J&K Communications as they just did something for the city or SDS Communications to see if they might offer something to help with the replacements.

OLD BUSINESS

With there being a new addition proposal of 100 + homes in Thorncreek Township, Carol had been in contract with Schnelker Engineering about line expansion. The current lagoons can accommodate an additional 700 customers at the present time. The developer would have to build another lift station along with a generator and the main lines through the addition. With the estimated cost for a new station around \$200,000 and along with our current new connection fee of \$9,285 per home, this has put the cost of the lots out of reach. Schnelker Engineering proposed this addition be a gravity system where the district would not need to buy grinders or vacuum pits to service these proposed homes. It was discussed that the current connection policy should be re-evaluated and perhaps a phase III for this type of situation.

Matt Shipman explained to the Trustees what has been transpiring between the insurance companies and Patty Burn's back up claim. Matt explained the different scenarios that could happen with going to trial with the insurance companies. The Trustees expressed the need to take care of our customers, but cautious about paying the one invoice and being able to recoup the payment from the insurance company; Matt proposed setting a meeting with Patty and reviewing with her the options for settling this issue.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

The new payment schedule received from Carter, Diller Umsbaugh, was misleading as to when the first payment was due to Old National after the refinancing. It read that the first payment was due end of July, when in fact it was due July 1st. We had not received any of the final paperwork or any notices from the bank until they called saying we were 11 days late. A cashier check was obtained and drove to Warsaw for the payment. Old National is looking into it as to why no other paper work was sent out. Matt Shipman said they just might wave the late charge with all the confusion between firms.

Mike Seigel has been going through all the division valves and has found numerous valves which are froze and are covered over with asphalt. He has been focusing on getting those open and going through all the grinders. The district needs to rent a vacuum truck after he gets the final list to have the valves cleaned out. He has also found the door hasp to the panel boxes were just ripped off when the locks were froze. There are about a dozen that will need to be replaced to keep the boxes sealed. He has also found several of the grinder pumps had the back flow flappers not working so the pumps were just recirculating the water. In addition, most of the hour meters are not working to know how many hours are on the pumps or to know how long this has been on going. He is also repairing the junction wiring boxes where the covers were removed and the wiring left exposed.

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After working with Schnelker Engineering and INDOT, the new connection for Marshall Heckaman was not going to be feasible for Mr. Heckaman or the Sewer District. The requirement from the state to get under SR 9 and the distance for a safe placement of the grinder was getting to costly for everyone involved. Since this was a voluntary hook up and the Heckaman's could get a septic permit, it was decided to refund his connection payment.

There are four lots at the end of Linker road which have been advertised for sale with sewer hook-up. The district's plans did not show any lines in that area nor did Schnelker Engineering show any line expansion. Mike Seigel remembered Wilcoxson extending a line from Edgewater over to these lots, but we had no record of this going in. Wilcoxson sort of remembers putting that line in, but didn't think he would have used a tracer wire and no longer had any of those prints. After a lot of back tracking Schnelker Engineering did locate a print of the line under the previous homeowner's name. Should one of those lots sell we will need to dig on the first two property lines to find the sewer line as the markers are long gone.

ADJOURNMENT

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 6:25 p.m.

Sue Schroeder, Secretary