

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
July 11, 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. All board members were present. Carol Martin and Cliff Cresson were also in attendance.

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. George made a motion to approve reports as presented, Priscilla seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

NEW BUSINESS

Carol talked about the new Indiana code requiring political subdivisions to adopt minimum internal control standards as defined by the State Board of Accounts after June 30, 2016. The standards were set with larger utilities in mind and hard to incorporate with a two person office. We have already implemented several different procedures to create a controlled environment with in the office. George suggested getting a hold of Matt Shipman as he helped the county set their standards.

Carol reviewed the current policy regarding billing rental properties. With the current policy, the district would bill the renter for sewer service as a courtesy to the property owners. A large percentage of our 'late payers' are renters who allow the monthly sewer bills to accumulate for 2-3 months before paying the bill and/or are often on the sewer disconnect list. Many are leaving the rental property owner with unpaid sewer service bills after vacating the home. The amount of time and resources spent each month tracking all the late payers is getting out of hand. Carol and Tina proposed to do away with this and let the landlord keep track of their renters. Being a flat rate, the landlord can put the sewer cost into the rent and take responsibly of paying the sewer bill. Sue made a motion to change the policy to only bill the property owners, Linda seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

Looking forward to the possibly of expanding the service area and expansion in our current district. Carol talked about creating a master plan and the district's mission. There is a lot to consider with the growth within the district boundaries over the next 20 years and potential development. Carol is having Jim Lauer look into our lagoon's capacity to know what we might be looking at down the road.

ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Carol contacted the homeowners along CR 350 E. south of Magley Lane in regards to connecting to the sanitary sewer; they were not receptive to wanting sanitary sewer service. If the sewer district ran a line down the road to connect Miranda Hosler these other homeowners would also be required to connect to our line. After reviewing the options, Carol notified Scott Wagner (Whitley County Health Department) that we are not able to provide service for her at this time. Whitley County can now issue her a septic permit.

AirVac had the electric and phone bills turned back over to Tri-lakes before the end of May's service. Several of these bills had not been paid for May's service and carried late fees. Carol is sending AirVac invoices for these charges and fees.

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Patty Burn's in home back up and cleanup invoices were denied by AirVac. Carol has resubmitted the claim to our insurance which again was denied. Carol has reached out to Matt Shipman as to where to go with this. Matt is going to write a letter to AirVac to have them submit the invoices to their insurance carrier.

There is a possibly of a new addition in Thorncreek township, could be 30 home or as high as 100 homes. The realtor has reached out to see about availability of sanitary sewer service to the addition and what would be the owner's responsibly as owner/developer.

With the talk of the lagoons and land, Tim suggested we look into logging the wooded area around the lagoons; Carol will contact a couple of lumber buyers to see if there is any value in the lumber.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Tom made a motion to adjourn and Sue seconded the motion. All Board members voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Tim adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Sue Schroeder, Secretary