

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
March 10, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Tim Brower, called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. 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 Tim Brower, Dick Eckert, George Schrupf, Tom Wise, Sue Schroeder and Ruth Orr; Priscilla Peters was absent. Also attending the meeting were Carol Martin, Tina Lemon and Steve Carter.

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 on any of them. George made a motion to approve Minutes as presented, Dick seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

OLD BUSINESS

Steve Carter from Carter, Dillion and Umsbaugh presented his rate study projections for the next four years to the board. There were several different options to consider going forward with the estimated annual revenues versus revenue requirements. Revenues after the bond reduction of phase 1 in January 2015 will be reduced by \$133,128.00. After careful consideration of actual operational needs and capital improvement cutbacks it was determined at this time that we shouldn't need more than a standard 5% rate increase over the next few years.

The time line for a rate increase was discussed along with actions needed to proceed with a 5% rate increase. Carol will have rate ordinance 2014-1 ready to review for the April 14th board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

George informed the board that Whitley County now has a MS4 status regarding storm water and runoff. He suggested a need to explore how this will impact Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District. MS4 status requires all surface runoff and drainage of any kind be reported. Carol will get with Jim Lauer as see how this affects the sewer district.

UPDATE

Carol informed the Board of the following:

Tina and I visited the Leo-Cedarville Sewer District and it was very informative. Leo-Cedarville uses Scada management software to monitor their pumps and stations. They are very similar in size to Tri-Lakes customer base and this system works very well for them. The down fall would be we would need to have generators located at all station if we were going to rely solely so this type of monitoring. We still might need to have some stations on chatterboxes since generators are not planned at all stations in the next few years.

There has been some interest from a few home owner's in Magic Hills housing addition to hook up to be the district sewer system. It was suggested that we send out a questionnaire to see how much interest there is from all the homeowner's in Magic Hill as well as Conrad's addition (Northland Estates) on CR 500. The thought is, their septic systems are aging and many might like to be hooked into the system rather than invest a new septic system. Jim Lauer should be at the next meeting to talk about line expansion and capacity.

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Station I (Old/New Lake) replacement panel box has been delivered and as soon as the weather breaks, Rider Electric will install it. There is considerable deterioration with the concrete walls that need to be addressed. Carol will inquire about the warranty from Terra Contracting who had coated the concrete in 2011.

The final bond payment for Phase I will be January 2015, for December 2014 Service. February 2015 homeowners in Phase I who did not pay the bond up front will see their bills reduced by \$18.49 per month.

Call outs this past month were extremely high due to snow packed over the Candy Canes and extreme cold temperatures.

We are having a tremendous amount of infiltration of water with the rains and snow melt. There is a good possibility that a lot of the candy canes and clean outs have been damaged with the harsh winter freeze and snows.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Dick made a motion to adjourn and Tom seconded the motion. All Board members voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Tim adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Sue Schroeder, Secretary