

MINUTES  
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
May 8, 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**

Bill Etzler with Engineering Resources

**CUSTOMER CALLS/CONCERNS**

There has been a several customers and Thorncreek's Trustee, Gene Hickman, who are concerned about the proposed cattle CAFO within a couple of miles of the lakes and district. They were soliciting for TLRSD backing against the operation. Carol explained that this was going to have to be a decision from the board as to what stand, if any the district would take and get back to them. After some discussion the Trustees decided that the district should just express our concerns and not take a hard stand for or against the proposed operation.

Whitley County RSD has reached out to TLRSD and are looking at Magic Hills and Northland Estates to see how much interest there is to connect to a sewer system. TLRSD already has a handful of customers being serviced in Magic Hills and there has been several inquiries the past couple of years for lots within Magic Hills. Currently there is an inquiry for a cost to expand the line 300 feet to pick up a new building lot. Need to get with the engineer to figure the best approach and approximate cost.

**MINUTES & REPORTS**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

Carol Martin discussed the need for someone with an accounting background for office staffing. Carol Martin is going to be cutting back her office time for personal reasons. Tina Lemon had the accounting degree and knowledge of fund accounting and with her leaving has left a void in this area. Carol Martin has volunteered to say on as Administrator and taking an hourly wage after we hire additional staffing. The office can run with one person for shore periods of time, however is best to have two people. The district needs to have key people in place looking at the future of the district as we move forward with the partnership with Whitley County RSD.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A parcel of ground on the backside of Big Lake has been divided into four lots for sale. There has been ongoing discussion with the realtor over the past several years about the sewer connections for these lots. Our subdivision policy states the developer is responsible for the cost to extend the lines to these lots. After much discussion Carol will get with the engineer and have them figure the best ways to provide service and cost estimates.

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**TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT**

The regular meeting was suspended until 5:30 to start the public hearing for the proposed rate increase of 5%.

**RATE HEARING MEETING CALL TO ORDER 5:30**

Board President, Tim Brower, called the public hearing to order at 5:30 pm. This hearing was held for public comments on the board's proposed and approved 5% rate increase, to be effective 7/1/2017.

There were no customers in attendance for the rate hearing.

Being there were no comments, Tim requested a motion to accept, reject or delay approval of Sewer Rate Ordinance 2017-1. George made a motion to accept the ordinance; seconded by Ruth. Verbal vote of each board member to approve the ordinance was made.

Rate Ordinance 2017-1 passed by a vote of seven (7) to zero (0).

|                        |                 |                    |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Priscilla Peters – Yes | Tom Wise – Yes  | Linda Parker –Yes  |
| George Schrupf – Yes   | Tim Brower –Yes | Sue Schroeder –Yes |
| Ruth Orr – Yes         |                 |                    |

Tim then closed this portion of the meeting and the regular meeting resumed.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

Mike Seigel has found a broken line inside the lift station at Goose Lake. The sewer gases have deteriorated the line and it will have to be dug up to be replaced. This is being scheduled as quickly as possible with Environmental Equipment.

Carol has received additional bids for the asphaltting of the drives. We will be able to have all the drives done for \$2,928.00. This was \$562.00 less than the first bid.

The stone for the lagoons and drive is now complete and will help out with access and not getting stuck in mud.

The Whitley County RSD has been in contact with Carol and has targeted Magic Hills and Northland Estates as the first areas for possible sewer service. There will be letters going out to the homeowners and with a public meeting in June to answer questions. This is just the first in many steps going forward with line expansions.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Sue 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 6:20 p.m.

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Sue Schroeder, Secretary