

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
November 11, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Board Secretary, Tim Brower, called the meeting to order at 5 pm, as Board President Sue Schroeder was absent. 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 Bruce, George Schrupf, Tom Wise and Priscilla Peters. Also present were Carol Martin, Cliff Creason, Tina Lemon, and Ruth Orr.

GUEST

Steve Carter came to the meeting to reintroduce himself to the board. Steve was the district's contact when he was with H. J. Umbaugh and Associates and has since left and started a new firm, CarterDillonUmbaugh. He highlighted a few of the services he can offer to smaller regional sewer districts. He further noted that being with a smaller firm he can now be more cost competitive and offer better customer service as he is only an hour away. He asked district to give him an opportunity for future work.

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 Schrupf made a motion to approve Minutes as presented, Dick seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (5) to zero (0) with Priscilla abstaining as she was not present at the prior meeting.

Tom made a motion to approve the maintenance & Operations reports, George Schrupf seconded; Verbal vote of the motion carried by six (6) to zero (0).

OLD BUSINESS

Carol presented to the board different cost options on a couple of different Doppler flow meters. The trial meter from Instrumart gave us good readings for the two weeks we had it in operation. Carol had Franke Environmental Systems come out and give us a quote on a different type of Doppler meter. The current mag meters we purchased from Instrumart cannot be returned. It was discussed to see if we can maybe sell to another district. Carol felt the it made more sense to go with Franke Environmental as he has always had good customer service and is a local company should we have more problems. Tim made a motion to go with Franke Environmental on the condition he provides the meter box at no additional charge. George Schrupf seconded; Verbal vote of the motion carried by six (6) to zero (0).

The new disconnect policy was emailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for approval after Matt Shipman's review. All board members had voted in approval.

NEW BUSINESS

As per State Board of Accounts approved guidelines, Carol and Tina presented to the board a list of uncollectable debt on closed accounts which needed to be written off to bad debt, the board approved with no changes. The books needed to be cleaned up with this uncollectable debt of \$4,891.78 from 20 different accounts accumulated over prior years.

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UPDATES

The roofs have been replaced on station D and station C as well as the bush and limbs cleared from around station C. The other roofs which will need attention in the next couple of years will be station A as well as the district office.

The installation of the new grinder pit located on 350 E. and hook up of the new home was completed last week. There were several issues with the bottom of this pit leaking. They came and injected foam around the outside several times before molding in a whole new bottom to fix the problem.

The lagoons were sprayed with a fall treatment for thistles since we had such a problem with them this past year. They will now be on a twice a year treatment to keep them under control as per our contract with the local farmer.

George Bruce suggested that we have another public hearing ready to go in May for another 5% rate increase to help with the short fall in the budget. There should be another rate study to know where we are going to be after the phase I bond drops off. The last rate study from Umbaugh cost around \$15,000. Tom suggested we see what Steve Cater would charge for a rate study so the board will have a better idea of where we will be going into 2015. The budget for 2014 will be ready for the trustee's approval at the next board meeting.

This was George Bruce's last meeting after 27 years of serving the district and board. Carol introduced Ruth Orr who would be replacing George Bruce. The district gives many thanks to George, along with best wishes to him in the years ahead.

TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT

Since it was not yet 6:00, the time scheduled to hear public comment on the proposed rate ordinance. 2013-2. Dick made a motion and Tom seconded to suspend the meeting at this point until 6:00. The motion carried by a verbal vote of six (6) to zero (0).

RE-CALL TO ORDER

Tim Brower called the public hearing to order at 6 pm. This hearing was held for public comments on the board's proposed new connection charges to be determined as follows: \$5,960 plus 3% from each year from 2001 to the year of connection, plus all additional costs of supplying service to the property.

Guidelines for public comment were read. Tim asked for any public comments, there being no guest present for the meeting, the meeting was closed to further comments.

Tim then requested a motion to accept, reject or delay approval of Sewer Rate Ordinance 2013-2. George Schrupf made a motion to approve the ordinance; seconded by Tom. Rate Ordinance 2013-2 carried by a verbal vote of six (6) to zero (0).

Priscilla Peters – Yes
Dick Eckert – Yes
George Schrupf – Yes
Sue Schroeder – Absent

Tom Wise – Yes
George Bruce – Yes
Tim Brower – Yes

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.

Tim Brower, Secretary