

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
October 14, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Sue Schroeder, 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 Sue Schroeder, Dick Eckert, George Bruce, George Schrupf, Tim Brower, Tom Wise and Janet Moss. Also present were Carol Martin, Cliff Creason, Tina Lemon, Bill Thomas and Matt Shipman.

MINUTES & REPORTS

The Minutes, Operations and Maintenance Reports were emailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Sue asked for any additions, deletions or questions on any of them.

Carol explained with the accounting software conversion no penalties were assessed for the month of September, due to the timing of the conversion. Sue also inquired about the budget for office maintenance and suggested we look at that budget when we allocate funds for 2014.

With no other questions George Schrupf made a motion to approve the operation report as presented, Tim seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

Dick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Tom seconded; Verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

OLD BUSINESS

Carol has been working with Instrumart regarding the influent flow meter. The meter the district purchased at the first of the year as part of our IDEM permit has not been reliable with the readings. The company assured us they have very little problems with the meters we purchased. The meter was sent back to affirm it was calibrated and working. The programming has been reviewed several times along with the meters being pulled, cleaned and rotated. After exhausting all options, they believe we have a "coating problem" with something in our waste water. Samples of the water had been sent out to see if something outside of normal sewer water was present. The results didn't show anything out of the normal for sewer water. Instrumart thought our high iron content might be a factor. Carol arranged for a trial of a Doppler type meter on a trial basis at no charge. This Doppler meter has been on the system for about a week and the readings looked good compared to the pump run times. Instrumart is giving us a discounted quote for the Doppler meter, since we've had so much trouble with the other mag meters. Carol will look into our options and have them for the board for the next meeting.

Matt Shipman explained to the board the procedure to change the connection fee since it is tied to the sewer rate ordinance. To make this rate modification the board needs to introduce the ordinance then hold another public hearing after it has been published. After much discussion about rates and budgets, Tim made the motion to move forward and introduce the new connection fee and hold a public meeting, Tom seconded. Motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

The disconnect policy was also reviewed with Matt Shipman. Matt will review and format the proposed new policy and Carol will send it out by e-mail for the trustee's approval.

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CUSTOMER CALLS/CONCERNS/INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO TRUSTEES

Doug Snyder of Spear Road is looking to build on his property and has now realized the main sewer line is cutting through the length of his property. At the time the lines were installed, the property was in a family trust, so a representative from Star Financial signed the easement form. Mr. Snyder felt it should have been located in a public easement just 20 feet over. Mr. Snyder is now limited to how much of his property he can build on. Jim Lauer from Schnelker Engineering, cannot explain what happen 22 years ago, but said it is possible to move the line over to accommodate his building. Mr. Snyder is looking into his options.

NEW BUSINESS

Janet Moss submitted her resignation from the board this evening as she no longer has time to serve due to new employment. The district thanked her for all the years of service and wishes her well in her new employment

Carol had presented to the board the quote for the Indiana Public Retirement System (PERF). PERF has two enrollment dates, January and July and the costs are computed six months in advance. Sue had budget and maintenance contract concerns and wanted to wait until after the next budget is reviewed and evaluate the all the district's needs.

UPDATES

Carol informed the board of a notice we received from IDEM regarding not having a Regional District Plan on file as required by Indiana Code 13-26-6. With the help from Schnelker Engineering and prior records we were able to submit a district plan within the time frame required.

Carol reminded the board that Tim Brower's and George Bruce's appointments were up after November. George brought Bill Thomas along to sit in on the meeting to see if he would be interested in serving on the board. Carol will see that Ira Scholterback, Noble Township Trustee, has his information to contact him. With Janet's announcement of resigning Carol will also get in touch with Gene Heckman, Thorncreek Township Trustee, to see about her replacement before the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Janet made a motion to adjourn and Dick seconded the motion. All Board members voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Sue adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Tim Brower, Secretary