

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
OCTOBER 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER – Board President, Dan Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 5 pm. The meeting was held at the TriLakes Lions Club Building at 2800 E. Colony Avenue, Columbia City, Indiana.

ROLL CALL – Roll call was taken and all Board members except David Anderson were present. Also present were Cliff Creason and Nel Mann.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND/OR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – There were no guests during the regular part of the meeting; however, there were seven (7) guests present for the public comment portion. Those guests were: Robert Stokoe, Margaret Wise, Virgil Van Houten, Tandra Simmons, Stan Peters, Priscilla Peters, and Gene Heckman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Nel announced that both she and Tina would be attending the Indiana Regional Sewer District Association's Annual Conference in Carmel on Monday, October 31st and that the office would be closed that day. Tina is attending to participate in a segment presented by the SBOA on the annual report which she does for the District each January. Nel has been asked to be on the Board for the Association.

CUSTOMER CALLS/CONCERNS/INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO TRUSTEES -- None.

MINUTES & REPORTS – All reports (Minutes, July & August Financial, Operations, and Maintenance) were mailed to all Trustees prior to the meeting for review. Dan asked if there were any additions, deletions, corrections, or questions on any of them. There being none, Sue made a motion and Mike seconded to accept all reports as presented. The motion carried by a verbal vote of six (6) to zero (0).

There were no committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS – Nel provided the Board with a requested edit to the approved By-Laws. After a very brief discussion, Mike made a motion and Janet seconded to approve the By-Laws as edited. The motion carried by a verbal vote of six (6) to zero (0). The major change was in the area of Board officer selection which was changed back from yearly rotation of officers to yearly election of officers. The office of Vice President was also removed from the By-Laws.

There was no other old business discussed at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Nel provided initial information to the Board on the requirement for an effluent flow meter and a potential change to where we measure stream flow when discharging, two critical items that will be required when our NPDES permit comes up for renewal in 2012. She indicated that there is much more work to be done before a request for approval and funds from the Board is requested, however.

There was no other new business discussed at this meeting.

TEMPORARY ADJOURNMENT – Since it was not yet 5:30--the time we had scheduled to hear public comment on the proposed rate increase of 5%--Mike made a motion and Janet seconded to temporarily recess the meeting until 5:30. The motion carried by a verbal vote of six (6) to zero (0).

RE-CALL TO ORDER – At precisely 5:30 p.m., Dan called the meeting back to order. All members present before continued to be present for this portion of the meeting. Also now present was Tina Lemon from the District staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RATE INCREASE -- Dan provided information to those present on how the comment portion of the meeting would be handled. Afterwards, he opened the floor for anyone who wished to speak to do so.

The first speaker was Robert Stokoe. He was opposed to any increase in rate citing the poor economy as his reasoning. He also indicated that he has some questions on how the Board operated, and he was given a sheet on which to document his questions for Board response at their next meeting.

The second speaker was Priscilla Peters and she questioned why there were a couple of rates that were only being increased by 10 cents and not the full 82 cents. The reasoning for this was briefly explained to her and she was informed that a more detailed explanation would be placed on the District's website relative to her question.

There were no other speakers.

Dan then requested a motion to accept, reject, or delay approval of Sewer Rate Ordinance 2012-1. Mike made a motion to accept the ordinance; Janet seconded the motion. Results of a roll call vote were:

Janet Moss – Aye
George Bruce – Aye

Sue Schroeder – Aye
Tom Wise – No

Mike Martin – Aye
Dan Stauffer – Aye

(David Anderson was absent from the meeting.)

ADJOURNMENT – Tom made a motion, Mike seconded, to adjourn. All Board members voted in the affirmative and the motion carried. Dan adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m

Susan Schroeder, Secretary