

MINUTES  
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT  
September 9, 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, Janet Moss and Tom Wise. Also present were Carol Martin and Cliff Creason.

**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.

Sue questioned why the Capital Improvements – System account was so high; this was due to the replacement of the check valves in Stations D & C. She also questioned the Maintenance – Buildings and Grounds account which was high due to the treatment of the lagoons and having all the buildings power washed.

With no other questions George Schrupf made a motion to approve the reports and Dick seconded; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dick presented a presentation of the proposed new connection fee schedule. The idea is to have both phase one and two customers have just one new connection fee. The phase two customers initial up front cost was \$5,960 when they connected in 2001. This cost included the installation of all the new pits and pumps at that time. So taking the average of 3% inflation per year and then escalated from 2001 to 2013 the rate for 2013 will be \$8498. The new connection fee will increase 3% each year to cover inflation. This change will make the cost of new connections more affordable for people who are looking at vacant lots to build. Looking ahead the board realizes that the connection fees need to be addressed as they have always been tied to the bonds. Since, the phase one bond will be dropping off the billing in 2015, the district needed to come up with a fair and reasonable rate for new connections. The new connection fee schedule will combine both phase one and two as we are just one sewer district not two different districts as the current connection policy implies. Dick Eckert made a motion to proceed with the new connection fees to existing infrastructure. George Schrupf seconded the motion; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

**CUSTOMER CALLS/CONCERNS/INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO TRUSTEES**

No customers concerns or inquires this past month.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Carol presented to the board bids to replace the roofs at stations D & C. Tim asked to get one more bid from Smith Roofing & Remodeling. Tom made a motion to get the extra bid and to proceed with the roof replacements not to exceed \$4,230. Tim seconded the motion; verbal vote of the motion carried by seven (7) to zero (0).

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**UPDATES**

The ponds have been treated for algae to enable discharging this past week. Carol mentioned that ponds are going to need more maintenance in the coming years and maybe we need to start thinking about aeration as an alternative for chemical treatment.

New electrical service is almost complete for the property at 2385 E. 500 N. Columbia City. Carol should have the final cost at the next board meeting.

Keystone is in the process of converting all the files for the new software. Training will be scheduled in the next couple of weeks and the October billing should be from the new software.

The check valve replacements in station D and C are almost complete. Carol recommends we reevaluate the recommendations from AirVac on the other suggested repairs to the station before going forward with other valve replacements.

Carol reminded the board that Tim Brower and George Bruce's board appointments are up in November. If they are still interested in serving, she will let the township trustee know.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Tim Brower made a motion to adjourn and George Bruce seconded the motion. All Board members voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Sue adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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Tim Brower, Secretary