

MINUTES
TRI-LAKES REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

CALL TO ORDER – Board President, Dan Stauffer, called the meeting to order at 5 pm. The meeting was held in the District Office at 5240 N. Old 102, Columbia City, Indiana.

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND/OR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – There were two guests at this meeting—Jim Lauer of Schnelker Engineering and Ken Mills, an individual who has requested connection to our system on property that he owns on W. 600 S.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – None. Sue Schroeder did thank the District for placing flags along the street for the return visit of her son who was tragically injured in Afghanistan.

CUSTOMER CALLS/CONCERNS/INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO TRUSTEES -- None of the Trustees reported any customer calls. Nel showed the Trustees the bottom portion of a bill that was returned by one customer indicating that she ‘had attended our meetings in the past and was appalled at the rude treatment of guests.’ (This particular customer had been at one meeting only since before 1999 and that was earlier this year. Board members did not feel that she had been treated rudely by anyone at that meeting.)

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, Mike made a motion and Sue seconded to accept all reports as presented. A verbal vote was taken and all members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

There were no committee reports.

OLD BUSINESS –

- Nel brought the Board up-to-date on the problem with the generator at the Old Lake/New Lake LS, which has been taken by MacAllister back to their site for further evaluation and repair. A temporary unit is in place. The signs we had placed at the area to alert drivers on 700 S of the work in progress, were stolen.
- Nel introduced the revised Sewer Rate Ordinance (2012-1) as well as the note that will be sent to customers via the billing process. (Umbaugh supplied the information for revising the ordinance and our attorney approved the message that will be provided to the customers.) The Board discussed when, where, and at what time to have the public meeting. They requested that we schedule it immediately following our normal meeting on Monday, October 10th. They instructed Nel to try and schedule it at the Tri-Lakes Lions Club (first choice) or the Big Lake Church of God (second choice).

- As requested by the Trustees at their August meeting, Nel secured further investment information from STAR Financial. They have now suggested we place our debt reserve money into a 2-year (longest period of time the SBOA allows special districts to invest public monies) CD and our monthly transfers into a money market account to get the best possible interest. Their suggested alternative is now the best of the options we have received from other financial institutions. After discussion, Sue made a motion and Tom seconded to accept STAR's proposal on how to best invest this money. Nel will work with STAR to accomplish this transfer of funds.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Jim Lauer from Schnelker Engineering was present to discuss with the Board the options available to us to be able to provide new service, as requested by Ken Mills, on 600 S. He also presented alternatives to the Board for extending our vacuum line in that area to be able to service other customers who are currently not connected and to be able to replace a troublesome grinder system that currently provides service to two customers across from the Loon Lake Station. There was considerable discussion among the Board, and Ken Mills had several questions and comments of his own. Because the Board did not feel that they had enough detail in which to make a final decision on how to proceed, they scheduled a special meeting to continue their review. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 19th.
- Environmental Equipment notified us that the pump that they had removed from the Lagoon Lift Station was in very bad condition. They indicated that we could replace it for about \$400 more than what it would cost to repair it. David made a motion and Tom seconded to approve the purchase of a new pump which will be used as a spare for both the Lagoon Lift Station as well as the Old Lake/New Lake Lift Station. The motion carried by unanimous vote. A new pump will be ordered.
- AirVac made an offer of \$2,500 for the Ford F250 truck and snow plow. Ken Mills also indicated that he might be interested in it. Sue made a motion and David seconded to accept whichever of the two offers was the greatest. Ken will look at the truck after the meeting and make his offer.
- Jim Lauer indicated to the Trustees that they needed to have a 'mini' master plan developed for adding customers who reside in/near District lines as requested. The Construction & Capital Committee (David Anderson and Mike Martin) will work on this as time permits. There was also brief discussion on equalizing the connection fee for new customers regardless of whether their structure is in the Phase I or Phase II area. This will take an ordinance change and will be considered in a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT -- There being no further business, Janet made a motion and David seconded to adjourn. Motion carried, and Dan adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Susan Schroeder, Secretary