

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 14, 2020

Board members present:

Mike Mossburg
Leon Berning
L.A. Brown
Bruce Stinson
Andy Stoller

Nate Rumschlag, County Engineer
Ryan Lefeld, Choice One Engineering
Mark Burry, Attorney Miller, Burry & Brown (via phone)
Davis Lamm, BCS Management

Call to Order

Mike called the meeting to order with the pledge and prayer by LA Brown.

Approval of Minutes

Nate presented the minutes to the board from the last meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as presented, by LA Brown, seconded by Bruce. Motion carried 5-0.

Payment of Claims / Reconciliation of Claims

Nate reviewed the current claims and discussion of payments before the board. The board discussed and identified that there was not enough money available for the latest set of invoices between BCS and Choice One. The board approved paying claims for invoices 20-21, 20-22 & 20-23 as identified on the check ledger form.

Following the discussion Nate recommended that the board consider making the final draw on the line of credit with the County. Board discussed and agreed this was the next step. Andy made the motion to request the final \$100,000 from the county toward the project development. Motion was seconded by LA Brown. Motion carried 5-0.

Presentation of Meeting Calendar

Nate presented to the board the proposed meeting calendar for board consideration. Board agreed to the schedule and asked that Mark prepare a resolution for the next meeting to adopt. Next board meeting scheduled for January 11th.

Nate also asked that if Bruce and Andy would be willing to serve on the board for the next term. Both are up for renewal at the end of 2020. Both agreed to serve if appointed and Nate would take their application to the Commissioners for their review and appointments at their next meeting.

Preliminary Engineering Report

Nate presented to the board the draft agreement with Choice One Engineering for the new sewer service areas under consideration and approved by the Commissioners for the board to investigate. Ryan commented that this study will be a new report and will be presented to SRF in the spring for consideration in the 2021 funding cycle.

During discussion the board asked if sampling and testing of the sewers in the area will be included and it was confirmed that it could be done if directed by the board. Bruce made the motion to have sampling performed as part of the PER investigation. Motion was seconded by Leon to proceed with sampling. Motion carried 5-0 with the request to have Nate, Allison and LA attend the field sampling and develop the schedule and locations.

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LA questioned the status with Poneto. Nate reviewed that Poneto has expressed they are willing to accept sewage and SRF has approved them to use some of their excess funding on the investigation to accept some of the sewage from the surrounding area.

LA stated that he felt that Petroleum is a hotter sewage polluter than Reiffsburg. Nate said he didn't disagree but based on the limits of the Poneto system there are only so many connections that their system could accept without major improvements which is unlikely since they have just recently improved their system.

Mike opened the floor for a motion on the PER agreement with Choice One. Andy made the motion to approve the PER proposal as presented. Motion was seconded by LA Brown. Motion carried by the board 5-0

Engineer's Report

Ryan updated the board on the engineering project status:

- Plans went out to bidders on December 10th
- 10 contractors are plan holders already
- Project is pulling bidders from the region including Ohio.
- IDEM permit questions have been responded to
- INDOT is close to approval on their permits
- Drainage board sketches for legal drain fixes are being included
- Railroad is not responding to correspondence and caselaw may be necessary for crossing the rail right of way.
- NOI and Rule 5 permit is in good shape.

Some contractors are asking about potentially delaying some of the completion dates to allow them to split crews. Board discussed the options.

Leon asked if we are good with the bid date. Ryan said he felt this should work well.

BCS Management Davis Lamm

BCS commented they had recorded the informational meeting and will be editing to release this.

Board then discussed the status of the website and release. Andy recommended by saving \$800 for the transfer of the website that they proceed with BCS Management. Board agreed to go live with the website. Website is www.wellsrsd.com

BCS Management is recommending to the board using USIC as a utility locates provider. The costs for locates will range between \$8-12/locate or call. Davis noted that USIC is the preferred provider in the SOP. Board tabled the SOP for now until it can be finalized and infrastructure is in place to establish the account.

Allen County did approve the connection to Wells County and BCS is awaiting the wholesale rate.

County Health Department is holding off sending letters.

Leon asked about SOP 2 & 3. Mark recommending not taking action at this time.

Davis asked about tracking easements.

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Andy asked how the tracking and public comments are coming along. Davis responded that many of the public comments are better in 1 on 1 discussions that can answer questions.

Board Comments

Discussion of staffing needs with the board. Board concerned about the status of an interlocal agreement with Adams County and what it would cover. Leon asked that if we could get this for a 2-3 year period this would cover until we are more established as a district.

Leon asked what is the plan on the 300-ft rule? Jack Weiger was quoted on the complaints of the application of the rule. Ryan stated that for all the potential connections beyond 300 feet total about 4,500 feet of additional pipe. Board discussed the merits of not asking for residents to cover this so to encourage connections now.

Board then discussed how Adams County applied the distinction between connections within 300-ft and over 300-ft.

It was commented that Jack did not want to enforce connections without complaints in that over 300-ft range.

Ryan commented that the lines to the homes and in the grant today.

Board continued discussion on the health department policy.

Attorney Comments

Nate read comments from Mark Burry.

Mark recommended we introduce Bond Ordinance 2020-01 by short title

Ordinance 2020-01 Bond Ordinance

An ordinance authorizing the acquisition, construction and installation of certain improvements to constitute the sewage works system of the wells county regional sewer district, the issuance of revenue bonds in one or more series to provide the cost thereof in an amount not to exceed \$9,165,000.00.

Andy made the motion to introduce ordinance. Bruce 2nd the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

LA Brown then made the motion to table Ordinance 2020-01. Motion was 2nd by Leon. Motion carried 5-0.

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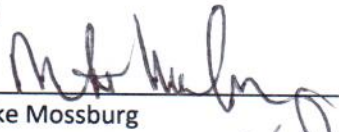
Public Comments

No public comments were presented.

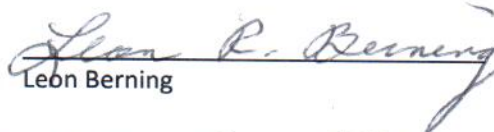
Motion to adjourn – Bruce, motion 2nd by LA Brown. Meeting adjourned. 5-0

Next meeting is scheduled for January 11th at the regular time.

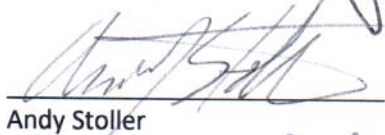
NR



Mike Mossburg




Leon Berning



Andy Stoller



Lewis A. Brown



Bruce Stinson