

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2021

Board members present:

Mike Mossburg
Leon Berning
Jon Oman
Bruce Stinson
Andy Stoller

Lewis Brown, RSD Superintendent
Nate Rumschlag, County Engineer
Mark Burry, Attorney
Ryan Lefeld, Choice One Engineering

Call to Order

Bruce called the meeting to order with the pledge and prayer by Andy.

Approval of Minutes

Board reviewed the minutes as presented from September 13th meeting. Motion by Leon to approve the minutes, 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0. Mike was absent

Review of Claims and Account Reconciliation

Review of claims prepared by Trent and reviewed by Leon for the board. Trent's report totals balance of district's claims for \$6,199.26 and the account balance of \$26,031.34. Motion to approve the claims by Jon and 2nd by Leon. Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent Report

Lewis has had very few calls the last month.

Lewis gave the board 3 forms for consideration:

- Lateral Tap details and specification
- Procedure for abandoning of septic tank
- Letter of process for connection

Nate did not have the contractor list for the board to review at the meeting. Lewis stated that before release some contractors may want to be off the list, so we need to contact them in advance.

Lewis asked the board for permission to start interim rate for Roger and Connie Watt on Meridian Road. Board did not object and the exemption claim notice period had expired prior to the meeting.

Lewis asked if there were options for connection assistance.

Lewis asked what can we do for non-payment?

Connection requests on CR 450 East North of 100 North, if we can include them in the Craigville project when the work is designed.

Murray:

Lift station is set and electrical is being set today. Gravity in Murray is complete and will start boring soon.

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Liberty Center:

They are crossing the railroad on 300W now and should have it done soon.

The post office and its payment status is being worked out. The phone number is working but he is working on getting payment.

Bruce – Have payments improved?

Lewis – yes, many are moving forward even with partial payment.

Lewis – For residents that have no interest in connection and refuse payment how do we set the lift station?

Nate – We can't set the station on their property without an easement and with the ROW I can't have the district set the stations in the ROW.

Mark – At least we can set the tap.

Lewis – Gene Taylor was given an exemption, but the family wants to connect the home. Gene is in failing health and the family wishes to maintain the ability to connect the home.

Nate – If they want the lift station the family would need to show you a Power of Attorney to be able to sign the easement or grant the district access to the property.

Leon – it seems that the delinquency is improving.

Jon – what is the impact for the one refusing to connect or allow easements?

Mark – the district would file suit.

Lewis – I will keep communicating with people resisting the district.

Engineering Reports

Ryan reviewed project status.

How much time extension do we allow? Asking VTF for how much play in schedule are you willing to allow and what time they need due to delays.

Lately items have been arriving for construction, but the generator and the grinder station colors are the delay.

Murray should be completed by the end of the year/start of January. Restoration will be next year.

Liberty Center mainline will be constructed through December. We expect that additional stone will come out of the contingency account.

Phase 2 went out for IDEM permitting and expect to apply for all remaining permits later in the month.

Ryan discussed the Notice of SWIF award for phase 2.

Leon asked about the gun hunters club on 400N.

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Attorney Comments

Mark sent out connection agreements for board review.

Notices will go out once scope is set and publications will be needed.

Mike – can we get someone to notify us of transfers of property within our district?

Mark – possibly you can ask recorder to notify us, but then they need to maintain a current customer list for comparison.

Board Comments

Board discussed the notices.

Leon – Ossian is looking to have Baker Tilly do a financial report for the north Ossian sewer project.

Leon – discussed the concern for low-income residents and connection costs. If trustee can't help, what resources can we direct people to.

Leon – provided draft language for a similar grant program and asked the board if they would allow him to contact the Wells County Foundation to see about setting up a fund that could administrated through them for those in need of assistance with connection or monthly bills? Jon stated that the City does not help customers, but they provide a list of charities to anyone seeking help. Board agreed with the vision and asked Leon to meet with the WCF.

Nate presented pay application #2 for VTF. Motion to approve by Andy and 2nd by Bruce. Motion carried 5-0.

Lewis asked about the Powell claim. Nate commented that it was issued through SRF for disbursement. Lewis to check with Ryan and SRF on the status.

Public Comments

Trout and Lisa Moser – 300 North requesting if they could connect to the system.

Ryan stated that yes they could connect the 74 acres from the Schamerloh property and easement for up to 3 other home lots.

Mark commented that they would need to sign a new construction agreement to hold the connections. Nate commented how the treatment agreement was structured with the city and why we need those connection agreements.

Mark said if they could get the easement and # of taps the line could use. Mark asked for their attorney to send a draft of the easement they hope to use.

Gary and Rhonda McFarren

Is Keystone still in phase 3 planning?

They spoke that they were resistant to the projects, but the grant funding should not be use for collection systems but for updating the existing private septic.

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They felt that the grant goes to benefit the businesses building the collection systems.

Gary commented that during the public hearing not all of the residents were there. Gary commented that the homes in the community can not pay the costs. Residents will move out and abandon the area.

Gary felt that the treatment options in Montpelier was risky. Nate responded that a written agreement between the board and the City would outline the rate and metrics for any increases.

Gary commented but how can we know what is in the agreement?

McFarren stated that they would be in favor of updating septic systems, not sewage collection system.

Gary asked does the railroad not give approval for some crossings and not others?

They asked that the routes and needs for more public hearings on the projects. They want more public information.

Lewis – the buttermilk ridge and other soil limitations are not in the Keystone area, but the lots are too small and well locations won't allow for septic systems. Doing cluster septic systems only have a service life of 20-years.

Gary – You seem to have avoided the southern wells school treatment plant. Why won't you work with partners in the community?

Nate/Ryan – we have not seen any information that says the School system has capacity and the school is prohibited to sell treatment services to the district. The district adopting ownership of the school's treatment plant is not a viable option for the district.

Andy – Does SRF fund septic systems?

Mark – No, SRF can't do that

Jon – The state is working to eliminate septic systems so funding is not available to build them.

Leon – We know the issues with Keystone.

Lewis – Are you asking for testing of the septic systems in the area?

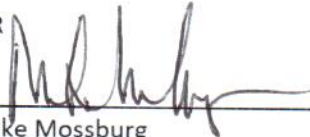
Rhonda – If that moves this project forward no we don't want to see testing of the septic systems in the area.

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

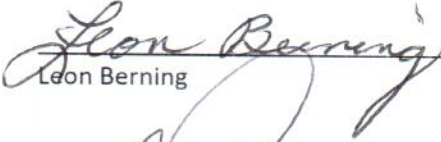
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Next meeting is on November 8th, 2021 at the regular time.


NR



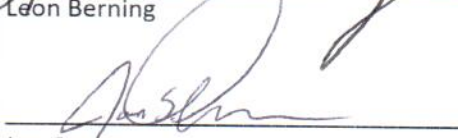
Mike Mossburg



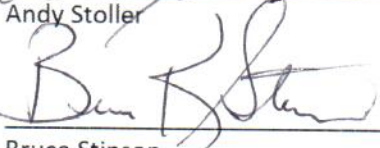
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