

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2022

Board members present:

Leon Berning
Jon Oman
Andy Stoller

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

Call to Order

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

Board Offices

Leon motioned to keep board offices the same for 2022. Motion was 2nd by Jon.

Mike Mossburg – President
Bruce Stinson – Vice President
Leon Berning – Treasurer
Andrew Stoller – Secretary

Motion carried 3-0

Approval of Minutes

Board reviewed the minutes as presented from the December 13th meeting. Motion by Leon to approve the minutes, 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 3-0.

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 \$9,270.39 and the account balance of \$12,462.80. Motion to approve the claims by Andy and 2nd by Leon. Motion carried 3-0.

Annual Financial Report

Trent came before the board to present the account history for 2021. Copy was provided to the board.

Commissioners are offering to cover the remainder of the Phase 1 line of credit to the RSD.

Trent asked the board if there was advise for reporting.

Mark commented that he needed to get a list of what can be funded from the phase 1 grant funds to be sure to use the budgeted funds rather than have the district use its operating funds on any project eligible expenses. Trent commented that a huge help will be to identify portions of Lewis's salary as project expenses during construction.

Nate asked about 100R and annual report submittals. Also, he asked if the board had filed with the federal system for award management?

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Superintendent Report

Lewis mentioned that he was very happy with the progress and work by VTF. Tracer wire is being installed and tested.

Andy asked if there are any change orders for the work? Ryan commented that we should not need to as we will use the unit bid prices for work as performed. As we get close to the end VTF and Choice One will present a change order to close out the contract.

Liberty Center lift station pit is under way. Two homes are switching to grinder stations from gravity to avoid a casing pipe under the railroad for just 2 homes.

Lewis is using a notary to help get easements signed and is working to get easements ready for Liberty Center.

Exception notices to be sent out on January 11th.

Discussion of a need for another Public Information meeting for Craigville.

Discussion of the differences between the large lift station easements versus the private grinder easements for home connections.

List of contractors is coming together and once he has a chance to call all of those on the list he hopes to post it on the website.

Most of the Liens are in the Liberty Center area and is hoping to talk to them while getting easement documents.

Nate and Lewis agreed that without an easement or right of entry agreement, VTF cannot put the grinder stations in the road right of way.

Lewis asked about use of a credit card for recording of the liens.

Lewis thanked Tami Fey and Hiday Motors for assisting with the Notary on the easement documents. Discussion about Tonner connection. Also discussed the liens and late fees.

Lewis told the board he is working on the easements as his priority.

Engineering Reports

Formal change order of extensions has been done.

Ryan presented Liberty and Murray pay application for reimbursement.

VTF Murray \$268,299.08

VTF Liberty Center \$265,921.42

Motion by Jon and 2nd by Leon to approve vouchers and issue to SRF. Motion carries 3-0.

VTF is getting close to crossing the Rock Creek. Allen is working on the 300 West road repair so we can use the remaining contingency funds for the work.

Ryan presented 2 alternate extensions 200S to Meridian and Craigville services.

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Nate and Mark thought that timing was going to be a problem and would not fit in the available window for notices to those affected to add to Liberty Center. With that the board discussed the 2 alternate areas for the Craigville service.

We will need to send out new exemption claim notices to any homes added to the project area.

Mark, you can't just add people who don't want connected without following a process.

Nate commented that if you want to add scope, Ryan is due an answer if you plan to add anyone before bidding the work.

Leon – I would want to stand up for those who are not in our scope and would not want to connect. I see our need for connecting along the way to the towns but sending sewers downside roads is not what I want to do against people's will.

Nate – complaints or lack of functioning septic systems are mitigating circumstances.

Andrew – I am concerned about taking a vote without a full board.

Leon – would we be able to let only voluntary connections on the extension?

Mark – No, you would get yourself in trouble giving special exemptions to some and not others.

Board discussed the specific homeowners along the different routes. Board asked to schedule a special board meeting for January 24th if the room was available to settle the discussion.

Ryan stated that lot sales of the Krueckeberg property in Murray was in discussion and how they could connect. Board then discussed this briefly but did not take any action.

Attorney Comments

Mark presented a sales tax exemption notice ST-105 for signature.

Mark presented Credit Card Resolution 2022-01 for approval by the board.
Motion by Andrew and 2nd by Jon to approve the resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

Mark presented SRF disbursement requests. Apps 15 to date are through and SRF has paid through 11.

#16	\$18,823	Wessler Engineering
#17	\$268,299	VTF for Murray
#18	\$92	Beachwood Reimbursement for title
#19		Wells County Land Title
#20	\$375	Reimbursement for Notary Services
#21	\$141,400	City of Bluffton: LC Buy-in
#22	\$106,940	City of Bluffton: Murray Buy-in
#23	\$8,651.36	Adams County Land Title
#24	\$2,021	Legal for Easements
#25	\$265,921	VTF Liberty Center pay app

Promissory note is being updated with the County Commissioners paying off the remaining debt. Discussion about getting a resolution with council for the ARP funds.

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Mark will meet with County Attorney Colin Andrews.

Board Comments

Leon met with Tammy Slater with the Wells County Foundation and estimated that up to 600 homes could be affected with approximately 70% will have a need. Leon is working on the 5 criteria applicants will need to meet. Leon recommended that even if someone is requesting connection support, they would need to pay a minimum of \$100 toward the connection. The request to establish the fund is being presented at the Foundation Board meeting.

Nate and Leon reiterated that this is for the connection costs.

Lewis asked if this would be in place by the time orders to connect?

Leon stated that it was the plan.


Public Comments

No public comments

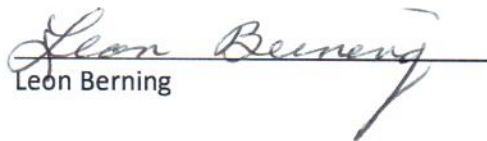
Motion to adjourn – Andy, motion 2nd by Jon. Meeting adjourned. 3-0

Next meeting will be a special board meeting proposed for January 24th, 2022, at the regular time.

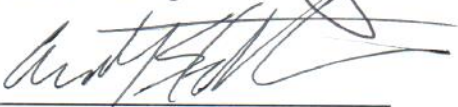
NR



Mike Mossburg



Leon Berning



Andy Støller

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Bruce Stinson