

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022

Board members present:

Leon Berning
Mike Mossburg
Andy Stoller
Bruce Stinson

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

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Board reviewed the minutes as presented from the January meetings. Motion by Leon to approve the minutes, 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

Review of Claims and Account Reconciliation

Review of claims prepared by Trent and reviewed by Leon for the board. The report showed deposits totaling \$6,799.14 with 8 claims totaling \$5,543.39. The two additional direct deposits brought total claims to \$7,116.89. Motion to approve the claims by Bruce and 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

USDA

Liz Stanley was not in attendance at the meeting and Leon explained that she was invited to assist with connection costs for customers. Board agreed to move ahead and return to her if she could still make the meeting.

Superintendent Report

Lewis reviewed his notes for the previous month and contacts he has had with the residents for the project.

VTF has been very respectful with the public. Very little could be done for temporary road maintenance.

Leon asked if VTF was still good with the March 31st deadline.

Lewis – they seem to be, but I am nervous. The electrical service is concerning and if homes have adequate service available. Two homes that were absolute no's are now connecting.

Engineering Reports

Pay application recommendations for pay app #6 for Murray and Liberty Center.

Motion by Bruce to approve as presented and to be signed by Mike Mossburg. Motion 2nd by Leon. Motion carried 4-0.

Pump stations to come in the first week of March and controls the 2nd. Possible to have connection orders by the second meeting in March if connections can be tested.

Phase 2 is about wrapped up. Possible to advertise on February 24th with bid opening mid to late March.

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Attorney Comments

Mark asked to approve specific claims for SRF reimbursement and payment.

Wessler Engineering invoice for inspection. Bruce motioned to approve claim for \$17,383. Motion 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

Beachwood Searching Services \$44. Motion to approve by Bruce, 2nd by Leon. Motion carried 4-0.

Wells County Recorder for \$25. Motion to approve by Bruce, 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

Beachwood Searches \$27, as a reimbursement to the district account. Motion to approve by Bruce, 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark presented SRF disbursement requests. App #29 will need to be renumbered following the meeting.

#29	\$17,383	Wessler
#30	\$44	Beachwood Services
#31	\$391,774	VTF Excavating
#32	\$25	Wells County Recorder
#33	\$27	Beachwood Services

Mike asked about using \$100 as the minimum bundle for future reimbursements. Mark agreed that they would plan to bundle payments together for smaller totals.

Motion by Andy to authorize signature by the chairman on the above SRF disbursement requests. Motion was 2nd by Bruce. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark passed the Promissory note around for review. This has been approved previously and they were prepared to make certain it was issued to council for payment to Choice One Engineering.

Nate commented that the credit card application will be turned in tomorrow.

Resolution 2022-02 – S.A.M. Registration Authorization was presented by Mark to the Board. Motion by Bruce to approve Resolution 2022-02, motion was 2nd by Leon. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark commented that he has been in contact with Randy R. and Jeff Rowe. The board won't be able to adopt a new rate ordinance until bids come in.

Mark commented that the County Commissioners will need to agree to some subrecipient resolution for the use of ARPA funds for the district.

Mark will meet with County Attorney Colin Andrews.

Board Comments

Nate commented that he had a conflict with the March board meeting. Asked to move the meeting.

Motion to move the next board meeting to March 7th and have a special board meeting on March 21st if necessary, by Bruce. Motion was 2nd by Leon. Motion Carried 4-0.

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Mark commented that debt service and rate ordinance was set for January 1st to have full rates in place. The delay is causing you a conflict. Your repayment schedule and bond was set for this. Mike commented that we don't want to be asking for full rates when people don't have access to the system.

Andy – What educational information do you send out with the connection orders?

Lewis – I have to finish the contractor list and their contact numbers. I have to get this info on the website as well.

Mark – You will send out your connection specs.

Leon – I thought Allison prepared this a year ago?

Mark – We want to send this out with the connection order again for customers.

Andy – I want to educate the residents what is prohibited in the sewage.

Leon then reviewed his proposed low-income service connection assistance program. State senate has a task force and Matt Lehman, and Commissioner Vanover are looking at low-income assistance for connection. Unfortunately, legislative action will not be in time for this project. Leon commented he had hoped Liz would be here as he had questions for the USDA program.

Public Comments

George Springer – Why are you connecting to Bluffton? The city has overflow issues, and stormwater into their sewage system. Why has the City not done their work before hand? Why have you not worked with local contractors? I have property on SR 124 and why is that line so small?

Mark – The city ran the project you are asking about and made the decision on those items you brought up.

George – I tried getting a septic permit and you failed it over one perk test. Who denied my septic permit?

Mark – This board does not permit or manage on-lot septic systems.

Leon – We can't get funding for new development or on-lot septic systems.

George – I would have upgraded Bluffton's system first before doing all this work. I would like to see better planning.

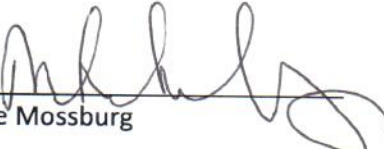
Lewis offered to meet with George next week to discuss some of his concerns about the RSD project and other community plans.

Motion to adjourn – Bruce, motion 2nd by Leon. Meeting adjourned. 4-0

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Next meeting will be a special board meeting proposed for March 7th, 2022, at the regular time.

NR




Mike Mossburg

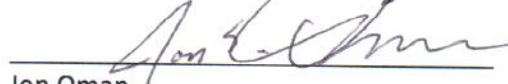


Leon Berning

Andy Stoller



Bruce Stinson



Jon Oman