

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2022

Board members present:

Mike Mossburg
Leon Berning
Jon Oman
Andy Stoller - absent
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 Lewis.

Approval of Minutes

Board reviewed the minutes as presented from the February meeting. Motion by Leon to approve the minutes, 2nd by Bruce. 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 total of 7 checks and 2 payroll for a total of \$7,947.14 for approval. Claims included payments to Adams Wells Internet, BNY Melon, Honegger Ringger & Co, the County Auditor, New Banner and Choice One. Motion to approve the claims by Bruce and 2nd by Jon. Motion carried 4-0.

Remaining Balance of account is \$60,111.69.

USDA

Liz Stanley was not in attendance at the meeting and Leon explained that she had a conflict and could not attend today. Board agreed to move ahead and see if Liz could make the next meeting.

Superintendent Report

Lewis reviewed his notes and provided a copy for the board of project updates.

Murray:

Most of the connections from the grinders to the force main are done.
They still have 3 gravity sewer lines to bore under SR 116.
Electrician is on site and looking at how best to make connections. VTF plans to pour the generator pads, but won't have generators for some time.
Part of the extended timeline is due to engineer's drawings not matching the needed locations for grinders.
Aaron is planning to concentrate on Murray completion.

Liberty Center:

Roads are still rough through town.
Storm drain is complete to the railroad and is off of 300 West.
Mainline force main is almost complete. They need to get the bores under Rock Creek and Meridian Road to the manhole at the old Corning site.

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
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Lewis is still waiting for information on this notary stamp and the background check is holding up the process. He hoped to have it soon.

Lewis asked to have an informational meeting with the residents of Craigville the week of March 22nd. Asked to have Nate schedule with the library.

After some discussion the board agreed to try for an informational meeting the week of March 28- April 1st, but asked to avoid March 30th. Nate asked to start with March 29th.

Engineering Reports

We are anticipating substantial completion in March and restoration work in April.

Liberty Center will lag behind Murray a few weeks.

Murray and LC pay app #7 is here but will hold for the March 21st meeting. Still under budget with project 1 and will need some items together for purchase before the end of the project.

Nate and Hwy Dept will be on site for a pavement review.

Mark commented that if the district is planning to purchase grinders with remaining funds they could contact the ACRSD for storage of the grinders with the new property they are purchasing.

There is a pre-bid meeting for Phase 2 is tomorrow, and contractors and suppliers are requesting that we extend the contract time for phase 2 into the spring of 2023 to allow for the delayed delivery schedule on select components.

We already have SRF approval for phase 3 and have technically already applied since these were tied to phase 2.

Jon commented that the pre-closing and closing for Bluffton's Dustman road interceptor sewer should be close to the same as the Craigville sewer project for the RSD.

Generator pads are being poured now.

Attorney Comments

Mark presented the Sewer Use Ordinance 2022-01. Mark read the ordinance by short title and reviewed specific elements in the ordinance for the board. During discussion Nate commented that the ordinance won't affect the average residential connection.

Motion by Jon to introduce Ordinance 2022-01. Motion seconded by Bruce. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark asked to put the ordinance on the agenda for 3-21-2022 meeting.

Mark presented pay vouchers and disbursements.

Voucher #34	Choice One Engineering	\$180
Voucher #35	Wessler Engineering	\$15,138

Motion to approve by Leon Berning, Motion 2nd by Jon. Motion carried 4-0.

The sewer use ordinance will come back up at the next meeting.

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 7, 2022

Mark recommended to the board that they proceed with the full rates with the March 18th billing. The rate ordinance with phase 1 identified that full rates would be sent out January 1st, so this shouldn't even need a vote, but someone will need to notify the billing clerk. The board expressed its frustration regarding the situation. Board agreed and asked to notify Craigville to proceed with the billing with the March 18th invoice.

Lewis commented that he wished he knew this before, and he would have had many different conversations.

Mike – I know, and we pushed to stay out till the March billing.

Lewis – are you planning to punish the contractors?

Mark – This has been a difficult project.

Board Comments

No board comments.

Public Comments

Jamie Jenson from Craigville asked with all the rain and flooding recently what could charges be if the system leaks?

Nate responded that we have planned for flooding locations and with a new system we are expecting the system to be leak free to avoid rainwater infiltration.

Jamie – Could they include specs for residents to connect and contractor list?

Lewis – connection spec is on the website.

Darryl Lambert – asked about the Murray project area. He wants help with his home's drainage needs. He asked if VTF could make changes to the drainage by the edge of SR 116 under the sewer project or if the stormwater project could correct drainage in his yard.

Nate commented that he met with Darryl previously and the storm system is not part of the RSD's work. Nate and Ryan asked to meet with Darryl after the board meeting.

Gene Biberstine – Liberty Center

Is there any chance that the \$95/month could be reimbursed?

Mark – The rate ordinance had it identified as started at the beginning of 2022 and the loan agreement obligated the district legally to do this.

Nate responded to question about stormwater.

Dan Hunt – I don't feel you did your homework. What do you pay for sewage?

I have 12 homes and my renters are backing out because of the investment.

Why can't you get different money to cover the gap?

Mark – The district has \$5 million and \$2 million in grant funds for this project.

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
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Mark – The treatment comes through either a city or town’s treatment plant and the district has to pay for the treatment. District used to get only 45% in grant funds and the rates were unsustainable. Mark then reviewed the logic of the district rate process.

Nate then commented on houses and looking at what connection costs may be.

Dan Hunt – residents are selling and leaving.

Mike – We can’t allow sewage to go to open waterways. The state expects the septic elimination.

Dan Hunt – How can you permit CAFO’s and hog discharges?

Mike – Why did Preble Garden’s close? There was no septic system available.

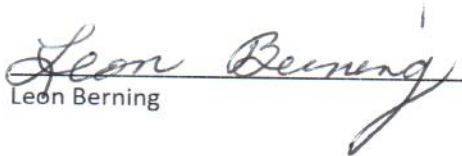
Dan – I could have worked something out. You are scaring them off.

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

Next meeting will be a board meeting proposed for March 21th, 2022, at the regular time.

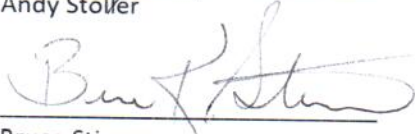
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