

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 11, 2022

**Board members present:**

Mike Mossburg  
Leon Berning  
Jon Oman - Absent  
Andy Stoller  
Bruce Stinson

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

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of the March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, meetings by Bruce. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 total of 6 checks for a total of \$5,571.82 for approval. Claims included payments to BCS, Adams Wells, Escrow accounts, Honegger, Ringger & Co. and Print Source. In addition 2 salary checks to Lewis Brown were approved, totaling \$1,573.50.

Motion to approve the claims by Andy and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce. Motion carried 4-0.

**Attorney Comments**

Mike moved Mark up in the agenda

Mark presented **Bond Ordinance 2022-02** and reviewed the ordinance by short title for the board and cover the contents of the ordinance for the board.

Mark asked the board to introduce the ordinance and table until the next meeting.

Motion by Andy to introduce and table **Ordinance 2022-02**. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark then presented **Rate Ordinance 2022-03** for board consideration. Mark reviewed the ordinance and that a hearing will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Rate will stay the same with the new project.

Motion to introduce and table **Ordinance 2022-03** by Bruce. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leon. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark presented a Resolution for the ARPA and Subrecipient agreement for the board. **Resolution 2022-03**

Motion to approve **Resolution 2022-03** by Leon. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. Motion carried 4-0  
Grant agreement can be signed by both the chairman and secretary.

Mark presented the financial study and engagement agreement for Baker Tilly. The agreement totals \$50,000 and is due at the closing.

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Motion by Andy to enter into the agreement with Baker Tilly. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bruce. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark presented the legal and project expenses agreement for MBB for \$50,000 and will be due at the closing.

Motion by Bruce to approve the agreement with MBB. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark presented the agreement with Barnes and Thornberg as bond council and their services through closing.

Motion to enter into agreement with B&T by Bruce, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

Mark presented SRF disbursement requests:

#38– Choice One - \$543

#39 – Wells County Recorder Reimbursement - \$334.75

#40 – Wells County Recorder Reimbursement - \$412.00

#41 – Wessler Engineering - \$14,232.00

#42 – Wells County Recorder Reimbursement - \$464.00

#43 – Wells County Recorder Reimbursement - \$26.00

Disbursement request forms for approval. Motion by Leon to approve disbursements, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. Motion carried 4-0.

### **Engineering Reports**

We performed the Liberty Center asphalt walk-thru today. Murray connection is still waiting on REMC.

We have no new pay apps from VTF. Pre-closing for phase 2 is May 19<sup>th</sup> with closing in June of 2022.

Craigville construction will start in July 2022.

April 2023 is the final completion date for the system and May is the full rate deadline with restoration in May/June.

Phase 3 – we have resubmitted the project to SRF this week for both Tocsin and Kingsland.

Leon asked Ryan to resubmit the insurance info on cost of grinder pumps to Tom Neuenschwander.

Andy asked about controls. Ryan commented that the control panels are here and coming along now.

### **Superintendent Report**

Lewis submitted a written report to the board and is included in the record. Lewis mentioned that May 6<sup>th</sup> is the drop-dead completion date.

Lewis needs a bond to accept cash and Nate commented he will get info from Tom for the bond and to get that completed.

Allen Shaw is not off the project, and we need to see about a new inspector in the interim.

Lewis commented that Barry Scherer has since retired from the Adams County RSD due to medical reasons and wanted to publicly thank him for saving us issues with the electrical on project 1.

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**Board Comments**

Mark commented that Craigville is moving forward and wish we could be done with phase 1 before the start of phase 2.

**Public Comments**

Paul Morgan asked about why he can't connect to the system if they are sending out the \$95 bills.

Mark – this was a combination of the part shortage and delivery issues. When the district established the rate ordinance the schedule was set for the full rate to begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. Since the rate ordinance established the terms for the payment of the bond the board was forced to comply and institute the rates. Simply the board didn't have a choice and was compelled to establish the rates even after they delayed more than 3 months.

Paul – it is just crazy with the bill and no recourse.

Andy – we have bank statements that show evidence that VTF has done their work and shown damages as a result.

Paul – How long till this can be connected?

Mark – plan is the May 6<sup>th</sup> for connections.

Paul – who can connect this?

Lewis – the contractor list and specifications are up on the website. [www.wellsrsd.com](http://www.wellsrsd.com) and the information will be mailed out with the connection notice.

Nick Thomas – What is the purpose of the sewer?

Mike – Indiana is listed as having the worst waterways in the US according to EPA.

Nick – City of Bluffton pays how much and dropping these systems all across the county. I bought my house because it was not in the City. What is my option here?

Mark – Those areas were all identified by the county health department as having concentrations of sewage entering the waterways of the county. The state just recently changed its exemption rules, but if your system was not permitted it would still not receive an exemption.

Nick – I don't feel your prices are fair and your contractors are out of control. How can you be 4- months behind? Why can't the contractors get this done? There needs to be a better way to opt out.

Dan Schreiber – I live just north of Liberty Center. When will they be doing yard restoration? I am concerned about the work correcting the damage in the yard and the service tap up to the tank.

Lewis – you will want to keep the soil pile so you can use that to fill the old septic tank void.

Dan asked if they had a date of his system.

Nate responded that if the system discharges it is not compliant and would not have been eligible for an exemption.

Patricia Holly – this whole thing started with a threat. If I don't connect you will condemn my house.

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Mark – Wells County is late to the game and the sewer district was a response to a suit brought against the county for failure to act on septic failures.

Patricia – Why the threat?

Mark – The county is full of illegal discharging systems. The state law forces the county to act on these violations. This is a board of volunteers who didn't make the laws up to threaten you.

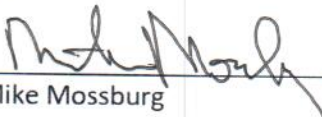
Patricia asked about the Murray storm sewer system and lath in her yard.

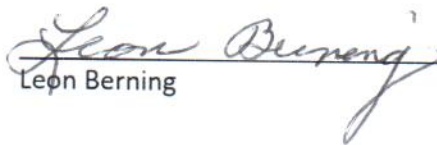
Nate offered to review it with her tomorrow as he was managing that project.

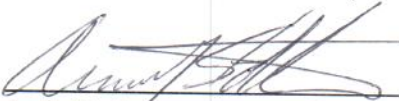
Motion to adjourn – Bruce, motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy. Meeting adjourned. 4-0

Next meeting will be a board meeting proposed for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, at the regular time.

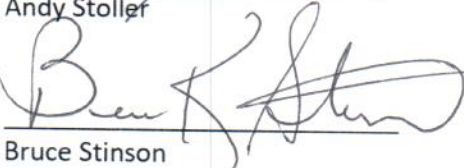
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