

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 15, 2023

Board members present:

Bruce Stinson
Leon Berning
Jon Oman (absent for the beginning of the meeting)
Andy Stoller
Dr Richard Jackson

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

Call to Order

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

Public Questions

Brandon Wright: asked for feedback on analysis of rate/fee structure.

Mark Burry: Rate ordinance was properly passed and details out structure. Rates set by ordinance after recommendation of rate study performed by Baker-Tilly in accordance with SRF regulations and guidelines.

Brandon Wright: Requested copy of rate study. Implied that he was considering involving IURC.

Brandon Wright: Why is the board more concerned with the contractor than the citizens of Wells County?

Andy Stoller: I cannot answer the question as asked as it presents a false choice. The board is concerned about the contractor performance and the citizens of Wells County.

No further public comments or questions

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from July 12, 2023, by Leon and 2nd by Dr. Jackson. Motion carried 4-0. (Jon Oman not present during vote)

Review of Claims and Account Reconciliation

Review of claims prepared by Trent and reviewed by Leon for the board. Leon brought in 17 claims totaling \$10,433.99.

Account balance was \$126,238.38 on July 12, 2023

Account balance is \$144,022.80 on Aug 15, 2023

Motion to approve the claims by Dr Jackson and 2nd by Andy. Motion carried 4-0. (Jon Oman not present during this vote)

Superintendent Report

Lewis reviewed his notes for the board.

- Presented Wesler inspector report detailing significant progress on Craigville project

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- Reported potential issue between VTF and electrician that may impact project completion if not properly addressed by VTF
- Lewis is spending considerable time on grinder easement acquisition
- Fielding several calls regarding delays in completion of Craigville project
- Worked a solution to Jim Dehoff's drainage issue reported in July's meeting
- Upgraded cell phone to iPhone after unfortunate interaction between the RSD cell phone and mini excavator track. The cell phone lost the battle. Upgraded phone will work better with grinder systems analytics
- Working to update list of remaining homes that need connected

Engineering Reports

- P1
 - All issues have been resolved
 - Panels not required to have air gap by specification
 - As-spec'd - the system is susceptible to corrosion by sewer gas
 - Andy recommended that we get a design and quotes to mitigate this issue early to avoid future maintenance expenses on Phase 1. Phase 2-forward specification updated to ensure this air gap protection is built into design
 - VTF also recommends sewer gas mitigation
 - Final pay application for Murray/Liberty Center reviewed
 - Pay App #11 for Disbursement Request #80
 - Murray: \$88, 895.14
 - Liberty Center: \$128,252.15
 - Motion to approve pay application and disbursement request - Dr. Jackson; 2nd by Jon Oman, motion carried 5-0
- P2
 - Additional connections would like to join project area - handled on a case-by-case basis
 - Pay Application #9 for \$1,039,833.05 requested, reviewed by Wesler and Choice One, both recommend paying
 - Disbursement request #43 presented. Motion to approve by Andy Stoller, 2nd by Leon Berning, motion carried 5-0
- P3
 - Construction underway
 - Railroad permits and INDOT permits in place
 - Boring and Wet Well installation ongoing
 - Pay Application #1 for \$757,646.37 requested, reviewed by Wesler and Choice One, both recommend paying
 - Motion to process Pay Application made by Jon Oman, 2nd by Dr. Jackson, motion carried 5-0
 - Motion to authorize WCRSD chairman to execute disbursement request for Pay Application #1 made by Andy Stoller, 2nd by Leon Berning, motion carried 5-0
- P4
 - 2023 project fell below fundable range
 - 2024 cycle, if approved, would put Tocsin project on a 2025-2026 build schedule
 - Residents would need to contact their state representatives and senators to try to get project prioritized

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- Other
 - Commissioners are requesting opportunities to partner with RSD to develop additional construction options for other phases

VTF Comments

- P3
 - Working railroad bore, adjusting build schedule to accommodate railroad schedule as needed while progress is being made elsewhere in the project
 - AEP delaying implementation of power connections
 - Main bore is ~ $\frac{1}{3}$ complete
 - Grinder installs started utilizing improved process successfully employed on P2
- P2
 - VTF provided overview of project timeline and detailed supply chain delays impacting installation schedule
 - All material on order since June 2022
 - PVC arrived Dec 2022
 - Grinder Panels July 2023
 - Control panels are still short
 - VTF is pressure testing the main, but design specification requires 100% completion before pressure testing, VTF recommends engineering change to allow for incremental pressure testing/installation to help eliminate late-project verification failures/surprises that further impact project completion date.

Attorney Comments

- P1 Disbursement Request #80:
 - \$227,147 motion to approve by Andy Stoller, 2nd by Leon, motion carried 5-0
 - P1 will begin project close out
- P2 Disbursement Request #41:
 - \$22,866 for Wessler Engineering, motion to approve by Dr. Jackson, 2nd by Jon Oman, motion carried 5-0
- P2 Disbursement Request #42 and #43:
 - #42 \$2,514 for Choice One
 - #43 \$1,039,833 for VTF
 - Motion to approve both requests by Dr. Jackson, 2nd by Andy Stoller, motion carried 5-0
- P3 Disbursement #TBD
 - \$747,646.37 for VTF, board chairman authorized per earlier board action to execute disbursement request when it had been prepared.
- P3 Disbursement Request #85
 - \$3,257 for Wessler, motion to approve by Jon Oman, 2nd by Leon Berning, motion carried 5-0
- Superintendent Services and Salary
 - Board received recommendation to adjust the employment agreement between the board and Superintendent Lewis Brown as follows:

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Old	New
20 hours per week	35-40 hours per week
\$24,000 annual salary	\$60,000 annual salary

- Mileage for services will still be provided in addition to the new salary.
- New agreement effective 9/1/2023 until amended or terminated.
- Motion to approve updated employment agreement by Andy Stoller, 2nd by Leon Berning, motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments

No board comments.

Public Comments

No further public comments.

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

Next meeting will be on Monday September 11, 2023, at 6:30pm.

AJS


Bruce Stinson



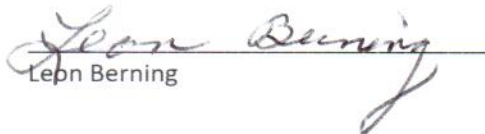
Andy Stoller



Dr. Richard Jackson



Jon Oman



Leon Berning