

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2021

Board members present:

Mike Mossburg
Leon Berning
Jon Oman
Bruce Stinson
Andy Stoller

L.A. 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 and Leon made some revisions to the minutes from July 12th meeting. Motion by Andy to approve the minutes as corrected, 2nd by Bruce. Motion carried 5-0.

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 \$3,031.24. Motion to approve the claims by Jon and 2nd by Bruce. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Report

650 feet of sewer was installed in the Murray area. Allen Shaw from Wessler is on site and answering resident's questions.

Liberty Center manhole structures have been delivered.

LA asked the board about delinquent claims. 36 customers have \$105 or more delinquent totaling \$5,005. LA then reviewed the costs to the board to file liens.

When asked Mark Burry responded that the Adams County district did not file liens on the interim rates, but that we may have no choice in our case.

Mark can prepare the liens and the board may have to file.

Mark commented that these fees and the late charges will be included in the lien total.

Mike asked that Mark craft a letter to go out with next month's bill.

Board asked to put the added page in the bill to customers if necessary. LA commented that he and Nate are planning to get the contact information for everyone if we can.

Board agreed to let the letters go out first before moving ahead with liens.

LA asked about custom flags with district name and # be prepared. Nate recommended that the cost of preparing the custom flags be put into the project costs rather than out of the interim rates.

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2021

Engineering Reports

Asking for receipts for stored materials.

Complaints about staging, debris and access are being forwarded to the contractor.

He is working on lateral locations.

Ryan asked board if any members wanted to be on the team's project update.

The last submittal packet has been received and approved.

Met with owner on property of the proposed Craigville pump station location and an easement has tentatively been agreed to. Other locations at other projects are in discussion and are on pace for a permit plan set in September.

SRF comments are back and next steps are the public hearings and updates on the alignment near the cemetery site along the Kingsland sewer main.

Public Hearings are starting next week on August 16, 18, 19, and 24th. Ryan reviewed the dates, times, locations of the meetings.

Andy asked about the PER and getting it on the website. Ryan will send the latest version digitally to Chris at BCS to upload onto the site.

LA commented that he hopes to have an available contractor list up on the website as well to help residents start planning for their connection.

Mike asked for more contractors to be added to the list. Mike hopes that the newspaper writeup will get some buzz with contractors.

Mark will send out the letter that will go for late payments to the board via email.

Attorney Comments

After the public hearings Ryan's connection list and SRF awards will need to be published and notice on the final determined scope of project with intent to sewer the selected areas. At that point notice will go out to all who will or MAY be able to connect to the selected projects. That notice will start the exemption claim process and deadline of 60-days will begin.

The legal descriptions can start for the phase 2 project pump stations once we have a notice of award.

Ryan commented that SRF has pushed back the notice of award to the end of August, so we hope to have this by September's meeting.

Mark commented that a draft of the sewer use ordinance is in the works and will need to be ready for notice to connect. The Sewer Use ordinance needs to be in place before residents can make use of the sewer.

LA asked about the farm ground and if we wanted to offer to residents or farmers the right to connect and pay for connections to waive future tap fees. Mark responded that we can and should be ready for more connections to allow development. This may be first come first served.

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2021

Existing homes who volunteer and how the connection agreement will work was then discussed.

Board Comments

Leon mentioned to the board that he and Brooke are working to get the District's DUNS# in place. He asked Mark why they need that number. Mark responded that it was part of the federal tracking of grant funds.

Leon mentioned that Trent is asking to be a signer to the board accounts. He can't pull records without this. Leon recommended that Bruce is also added as a signer if either Mike or Leon are not available to sign checks for the board. Mark commented that he would prepare a banking resolution for the next meeting included both Trent and Bruce.

Leon wants the board on the same page on exemptions and pointed out the county ordinance discrepancy.

Mark Burry – that discrepancy is due to state statute. The county ordinance is referring to health department and the use of word 'shall' is part of that. The jurisdiction of the RSD is limited to the 300 ft to structure needing sewer.

Public Comments

Brian Fenig – we don't know what we are paying to connect to the system.

Mark – The connection would be from the house to the gravity connection.

Unknown – why the connection fee?

Mark – you won't pay connection fee so long as you connect within 90-days.

Unknown – no one understands what we pay.

Mark – Once the project is done and system is ready for connection a notice will be sent out. Specifications will be sent including how to abandon the septic tank and gravity requirements to the tap. The board can't estimate the cost for the service from the house but has given owners a range.

Unknown – Where did the rate come from?

Mark – an independent accounting firm developed the rate.

Unknown – is Bluffton sewer pro-rated to water use?

Jon – if you have Bluffton water you would be pro-rated, but there still costs associated with this. Bluffton uses a flat rate for out of City customers who have no water service.

Unknown – Why do we pay the same as a family of 5?

Mark – that is standard for all municipalities that need to use flat rates. The rate is made of 3 elements, debt service, sewage treatment and operating costs. The board seeks grant funds and was one of the top 2 grant receiving entities in the state last year. SRF and Baker Tilly need the district to pay its bills.

Unknown - Who pays for power at the grinder and wiring in the project?

WELLS COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2021

Mark – the electric draw is estimated at \$2-3/month. Most homes in the Murray area will be gravity, but some residents are too far off.

Nate – USDA has grant options, but the income thresholds are often too low for many to qualify for assistance with costs for connecting to the system.

Zack Dobson – Can I make the final connection to the tee?

Mark – the homeowner is allowed to make the connection.

Zack - Is there anywhere you have proposed plans for projects? Why could you not have plans available for viewing?

Nate commented on history of plans and access. The plans are in my office and will be added online with the new website.

Zack – asked for better access for information.

Unknown – I don't see why I have to pay for inspection.

Mark – it's in the rate ordinance.

LA – Inspections are your best protection.

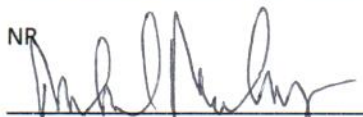
Unknown – you're going to kill two of our trees.


Ryan – we can look at that.

Nate – if a tree is going to die due to the project, the project should remove the tree rather than leave it for the owner to clear up. If you think the tree will die, then we should as part of the project remove the tree now.


Motion to adjourn – Andy, motion 2nd by Bruce. Meeting adjourned. 5-0


Next meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting for September 13th at the regular time.

NR

Mike Mossburg


Leon Berning


Andy Stoller


Jon Oman


Bruce Stinson