

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT MEETING

Zoom Meeting
January 21st, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The January 2021 LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District meeting was held on January 21st, 2021 was held by Zoom meeting.

Attendees:

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Tony Mancuso, those in attendance by Zoom were John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Mitch Bishop, Mark Danielson, Dalia Zygas, and Jerry Jackson.

Prior to moving on Tony introduced the new County Council Liaison Connie Gramarosa.

Board Officers:

New Officers need to be elected at the beginning of each year – or reappointed.

President - Marcella made a Motion for Mitch Bishop to be President, Mark Danielson seconded. No other board members spoke up and wanted the position. Mitch Bishop accepted the position. All were in favor on the vote call.

Vice-President – Mark Danielson made a Motion to nominate John Carr, Marcella Kunstek seconded the Motion. John Carr accepted the position. All were in favor on the vote call.

Secretary – Mark Danielson made a Motion to nominate Jerry Jackson, Marcella Kunstek seconded the Motion. Jerry Jackson accepted the position. All were in favor on the vote call.

Treasurer – Tony Mancuso made a Motion to nominate Marcella Kunstek, Jerry Jackson seconded the Motion. Marcella Kunstek accepted the position. All were in favor on the vote call.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Danielson made the motion to accept the minutes from the December 17, 2020. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Public Comments:

Kevin Flaherty – 7845 East Point Road, New Carlisle, IN.

He has been living on the lake for a long time and is wanting to preserve the quality of the lake.

Wants to know how to get this moved along as a project, concerns with neighbors and their septic. He is from Hudson Lake.

In 2013/2014 JPR was contacted by the property owners and wanted to know what the preliminary investigative report would look like for their area. 2 community meetings were held and Ken attended those meetings and a public opinion pole was completed. Saugauny Lake he believed it was in the majority but in Hudson Lake it was a small margin voting in opposition.

At this time, the information and lays with the property owners and the District if they want to move forward.

Mitch asked Ken if any costs were looked at – Ken said yes that after the project had matured to the Preliminary Engineering Report – we included 2 options for collection and I believe 2 options for collection.

1 was to connect to the City of South Bend and 1 was to connect to your own connection plant. The plant would have to be upgraded for capacity – and maybe improving the disinfection component – which again that is a couple of years old and was never presented to the property owners or the board. They also did not do a rate cost analysis or estimates.

The information could be completed and updated if the board gave the go ahead to do so. One thing that would need to be funded up front would be the Historic/Arcologic and Wetlands Study.

Ken advised the board that multiple projects are being funded right now – and interest is at the lowest he has ever seen them for rural utility projects. The median interest level is below 2% - the SRLF is right at about 2%. Both of those sources provide great forgivable loans,

Kevin came back on indicating that they are a diamond in the ruff.

Indicated that they have a group of individuals that are willing to get things moving and help in whatever way is needed.

Hudson Lake and Saugauny Lake together – Saugany is on rough to Hudson lake there is close to 1,000 homes total.

Mark Danielson asked for Kevin's information and Jennifer indicated she does have his information already.

An easements was also acquired along the Toll Road right-of-way to make it better for the project to move forward.

Tony indicated that they have the capacity at the treatment plant so the residents just need to approach the board.

Kevin also brought up the level of information regarding sale of homes regarding septic and their length of time. He believes this is more of a health issue then an money issue.

Reports - Finance Staff:

1.) Financial Report

A.) Horizon Bank Checking-Rolling Prairie Account - had a beginning balance of \$31,179.84 as of December 1, 2020.

1. Deposits 59,341.91 (\$57,128.10 on 12-17-2020 should have been deposited into TR account)
2. Interest Paid \$1.48
3. Disbursements: \$647.53 in Operation Expenses

B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$89,875.70 as of December 31, 2020.

2.) Toll Road

A.) Beginning balance \$69,911.80 as of December 1, 2020.

1. Deposits \$0.00
 2. Interest Paid: \$2.13
 3. Disbursements: \$24,965.88
- B.) Account Ending balance as of December 31, 2020 is \$44,948.05.
- 3.) Hoosier Fund:
- A.) Beginning balance \$250,038.99 as of December 1, 2020.
1. Interest Paid: \$84.30
- B.) Hoosier Fund ending balance as of December 31, 2020 is \$250,123.20.
- 4.) Claims

Marcella Kunstek made the motion to accept the finance reports as presented. Tony Mancusa seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Steve Carter, the Board's accountant, presented claims in the amount of \$32,526.92.

Tony Mancusa made the motion to approve the claims in the amount of \$32,526.92 as presented. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Reports – JPR:

Billing/Collections/Lien

- Jennifer reported on the sewer liens process and discussion with the new Auditor and getting the liens filed and recorded within the next month.

Reports - Astbury:

Chris Vogeler indicated no new reports since last meeting.

- Peerless – no changes. They are still talking with manufacturers. The change they made is working and closing slower. The noise is not as bad as it was.
- DA Dodd was there at the time making the repair. There may be a backflow preventer that needs to be replaced.

Phase II Update:

Dan Byam, Engineer from JPR, attended to give an update on Phase II -

- Kyle from Woodruff, PM had planned to start at end of January, but foreman got Covid.
- Mitch asked where the staging area was for the contractor. Dan will check with Woodruff and see if they need an area.
- Completion date does not change – August 14, 2021.

New Business:

Next Meeting will be Thursday, February 18, 2021.

- WWTP – building site review for use in meetings – Continue with Zoom Mtgs - Checking on Internet Access – Move Files from Health Dept to WWTP Building
- Indiana 811 – Locate Tickets - Currently do not have someone doing the locating. Need to find an actual locator. Proposals and information will be gathered and received. Map also needs to be updated to include the plants. Jerry can use his staff if anything comes in

important that needs to be marked. Make sure and review the contracts for liability language, etc.

Tony left the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

- Use Ordinance – Updating the Use Ordinance. Not sure where the original one is and if it was officially adopted. Jennifer will draft and Barry will review and get together for the Board to adopt.
- Tap Fees – Mitch brought up this issue and was wondering about the fees.
- Interim Rate Billings were discussed for Phase II – board determined not at this time but will discuss it again next month. It is a policy decision from the board per Barry. Steve Carter indicated that Principal is accruing from the SRF Loan and has been deferred. It will put a strain on the budget.
 - If no Interim Payments are collected then there is only a 3 month payment period to collect funds prior to a principal SRF payment becoming due.
- Marcell asked if it is normal for Districts to charge an Interim Rate for projects and the answer was absolutely. Barry indicated that payments could be paid from the Toll Road account. Discussion and comments from board members and one non-board member regarding not starting rates currently. Steve will discuss with SRF modify the payments.
- Property Owner Packets – Packets for the property owners are ready to be mailed out and will be within the next few weeks. Barry indicated that he had reviewed the packets and approved of the information within. Add to the cover letter the date of construction completion and connection date. Letter will only be signed by Mitch Bishop instead of three parties.

Mark Danielson made the motion to approve the property owner packets being mailed to all property owners connecting in Phase II. Marcella Kunstek seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
- Executive Committee Task Force – Jerry Jackson, Marcella Kunstek, and Mark Danielson volunteered and assigned to form the first Executive Committee Task Force to begin researching and preparing various documents policies such as Rules and Regs Document, Construction Standards, etc.

Old Business:

- Solar Panel: - Midwest Wind & Solar - Nothing this month.

Dalia has a guy she will contact about pollinator guy she will contact to attend as well.
- Gary Radtke: - Radtke Engineering & Surveying – East Side Meat & Product – Barry indicated that Gary has been moving things along on his end – but no new update this month.
- Website Update – Jennifer indicated they are working on it and will be asking for information to add to the site. Jennifer and Mitch will be the administrators to add information to the site.
- DA Dodd Repairs – Chris indicated they put in the pressure reducing valve and the backflow preventer and they were competing. He took out both and now the toilet

flushes. The backflow preventer has to go back in – he will send Jennifer a quote for the backflow preventer.

- Generator Repair- Marcella will reach out to H&T for an update.

Mark Danielson made a comment to Jennifer that he appreciated everything that she does and for keeping them on track.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn at 10:288 a.m. was made by Mark Danielson, seconded by Jerry Jackson, all in favor.