

LAPORTE COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT MEETING

Zoom Meeting

June 4th, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Time and Place:

The June 2020 LaPorte County Regional Sewer & Water District meeting was held on June 4th, 2020 @ the LaPorte County Annex Building, Community Room #3. Located at 809 State St., LaPorte, IN 46350.

Attendees:

Tony Mancuso, Mitch Bishop, John Carr, Marcella Kunstek, Mark Danielson, Jerry Jackson, and Dalia Zygas

Approval of Minutes:

Mark Danielson made the motion to accept the minutes from the May 7th, 2020 meeting. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Reports - Finance Staff:

1.) Financial Report

A.) Horizon Bank Checking had a beginning balance of \$52,664.72 as of May 1, 2020.

1. Deposits N/A
2. Interest Paid \$1.29
3. Disbursements: \$1,714.30 and \$24,764.08 to TP

B.) Horizon Bank Checking had an ending balance of \$26,187.63 as of May 31, 2020.

2.) Toll Road Service Area Account

A.) Begging balance as of \$235,577.77 as of May 1, 2020

1. Deposits \$28,488.50
2. Interest Paid: \$10.56
3. Disbursements: \$17,675.42

B.) Account Ending balance as of May 31, 2020 is \$246,401.41.

3.) Claims

Steve Carter, the Board's accountant, presented claims in the amount of \$14,606.22.

Mark Danielson made the motion to accept the finance reports as presented, as well as the approval of claims in the amount of \$14,606.22. Jerry Jackson seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Staff - Astbury Water Technology, Chris Vogeler, Operator:

- Toll Road Plaza – Chris advised the operator at the Toll Road Plaza of the issues regarding towels going down the drain and the continued damage. He followed up with

an email. This is the beginning of the paper trail. Attorney McDonnell confirmed that the District's Sewer Use Ordinance does allow for fines and costs to pass through to individual/company causing the damage.

- DNR is investigating to eliminate 1 well and dig another because it was in the Great Lakes Basin. DNR now has a project to redraw the basin line – not sure what threat will mean for the District's wells. Hopefully, District's wells will be grandfathered in or will need to fight it.
- WW Building – Air conditioner is not working. Discussion is held if Asbury has monetary amount in their contract to make repairs without bringing it to the board. If the board can make a Motion to get repairs done for a determined amount – if not then bring quotes back to the board for review next month. Attorney McDonnell will review the contract and policy to determine if Asbury can complete repairs within a certain monetary amount. Motion by Mitch Bishop that Asbury get the air conditioner fixed in the WW Building if the amount is \$1,000 or less - otherwise, they need to bring back 3 quotes for next month's meeting for review and approval. Seconded by Jerry Jackson, all in favor.

Public Comments:

No comments.

New Business:

- Solar Panels – Jerry, Dalia and Mark took a walk about the City. They were given explanation of how it works and the financials. Also received a demonstration of the construction. The board would like to move forward with getting the history of the electrical use to look into the budget information and the pros and cons. Jerry will get this moving – and possibly get a presentation set up.
- Resolution 2020-02 Board of Trustees of LaPorte County Regional Sewer and Water District Authorizing and Approving to Enter Into an Inter Local Agreement for the Necessity of Public Funds. Motion was made by Mark Danielson to approve and Marcella Kunstek seconded, all in favor.
Discussion was given by accountant Steve Carter explaining this allows Agreement allows the investment officer to direct money to the market fund which is another alternative to invest funds. The Hoosier Fund is currently earning .7%.

Old Business:

- **Re-Bid Phase II** – Moving forward with re-bidding of Phase II. Advertisement for Bids and dates were discussed. Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2020 at JPR office in South Bend, Indiana, which is not mandatory. Bids will be opened at the next board meeting. Mark Danielson made a motion authorizing project go to bids and Notice be published, seconded by Marcella Kunstek, all in favor.
- Discussion regarding timeline deadline of Phase II. It was discussed that possible Substantial Completion could be May 2021 which could help to make sure there were no elevated costs.
- Budget concerns were expressed regarding the SRF loan and legal expenses due to the litigation. Original budget was set in 2018 and with the unexpected attorney fees, and

unexpected costs there are concerns of paying some invoices. Is it possible to pay invoices and expenses from cash on hand – then keep track of it and if any funds are left in the SRF loan the expenses will be repaid to the District. It was determined that an accounting of all legal fees and expenses related to the petitioner's lawsuit should be compiled and then reviewed and go from there.

- Discussion regarding connections to the vacant lots was held by Ken Jones, Sr. It was recommended that the service leads to the vacant properties/lots be removed from the project and the property owners be sent a separate notice regarding connection. Motion was made by Mark Danielson, seconded by Mitch Bishop, all in favor.
- **421 Project** – Moving forward and is using the District's right-of-way. It was discussed that there should be compensation for the using the right-of-way. Mitch will give an additional update next month.
- **Director/Administrator for Sewer Board:** Discussion and review of the Proposal for Administrative Services & Extension of Existing Professional Service Agreement provided last month by Jennifer Ransbottom from JPR. Motion made by Mark Danielson to accept the Proposal for the 2 year term but to add to the Agreement a provision that if the District determines it needs a part-time or full time employee they will give JPR a 30 day notice to terminate the Agreement, seconded by Jerry, all in favor.
- **Future Consideration:** Ken Jones discussed the possibilities of additional funding opportunities and other future projections with interested property owners in surrounding areas. He suggested forming a committee to start looking into these projects and funding options. Ken Jones will prepare a Briefing Memo and provide the information to the board for their review.
- **Next Meeting:** The next LaPorte Co Regional Sewer & Water Board meeting will be held on July, 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., CST. The meeting will be held by Zoom.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn was made by Mitch Bishop, seconded by Johnn Car, all in favor.